TWILIGHT TALES

KING OF BANDITS

王ドロボウJING™

YUICHI KUMAKURA

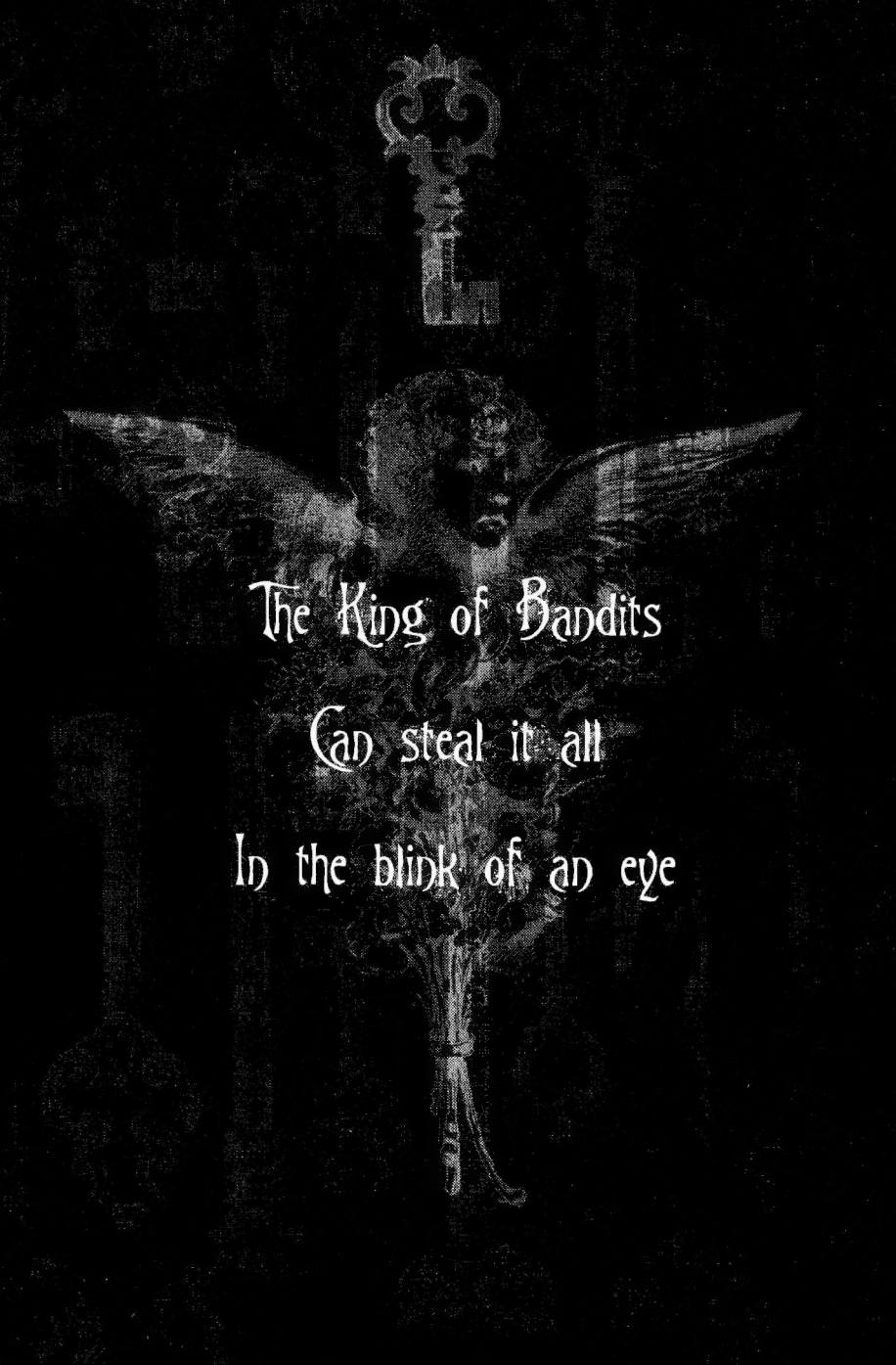
TOKYOPOP

All that glitters...

Even the stars

All things precious...

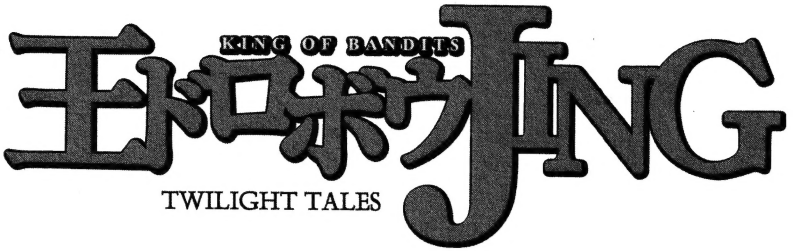
Even your life


The King of Bandits
Can steal it all
In the blink of an eye

battle7
AND NOW ON TO THE MAIN EVENT THAT ONLY COMES AROUND ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS, THE UNVEILING OF OUR ODD ASSOCIATION'S HOLY SUIT!
ON ITS WAY FROM THE SHRINE IS THE SUIT THAT STANDS ABOVE ALL 7,553 OTHERS!
YOU WILL SOON SEE BEAUTY THAT THOSE FOOLS IN THE EVEN ASSOCIATION--WHO TRY TO DIVIDE GOD EASILY AND SIMPLY INTO TWO-- WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND...
NOW BEHOLD AND LET ITS IMAGE BE BURNED ONTO YOUR RETINAS AND YOUR HEARTS!
WOW!!

キング・オブ・バンディット・ジン⑦ 熊倉裕一
JING: KING OF BANDITS
TWILIGHT TALES 7
YUICHI KUMAKURA
AT THE BOTTOM OF BLACK VELVET

...WE SHALL NEVER FORGET THIS TABLEAU!
THOUGH WE BE REINCARNATED ONE MILLION TIMES...
NOW, IN CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY SUIT'S ARRIVAL...
...RELEASE THE ONE HUNDRED ONE HOLY EGGS!
VMM



VOLUME 7

STORY AND ART BY
YUICHI KUMAKURA

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

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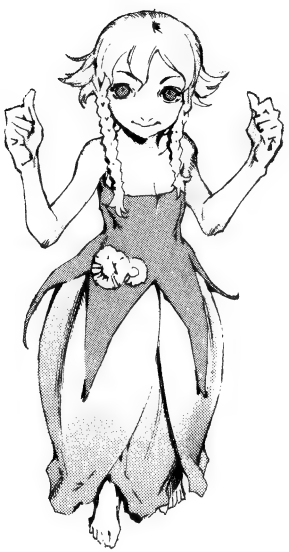
Once upon a midnight dreary a thief named Jing was weak and weary
Many strange and forgotten lands he did traverse and did explore.
His companion was a bird, an odd one name of Kir
Who possessed a strange vocation, a less than honest occupation.
"Wake up, Jing" Kir muttered, "all around is loot galore!"

Thus this ebony bird's wiling, changed Jing's sadness into willing
As he set about to do the thing he truly did adore.
So the albatross sat proudly on Jing's placid bust sang loudly
While his beady eyes explored the treasure stacked upon the floor.
One more thing that Kir did utter, his feathers all a greedy flutter
And his voice commenced a terrible dull roar,
Quoth the albatross, "Let's steal some more!"

JING: KING OF BANDITS
TWILIGHT TALES
VOL. SEVEN CONTENTS

35TH SHOT
AT THE BOTTOM OF
BLACK VELVET 1



OHH!! MAY THE ODD ASSOCIATION BE BLESSED FOREVER! MAY THE EVEN ASSOCIATION STAGNATE IN IGNORANCE!
AAAAAAHHH!!
CRACK
!?
!!!

35th SHOT-
At the Bottom of Black Velvet

GUUGH!
HOW DO I LOOK?
UHH...
UGH... HUH?
!!!
PRIEST!! FATHER!!!

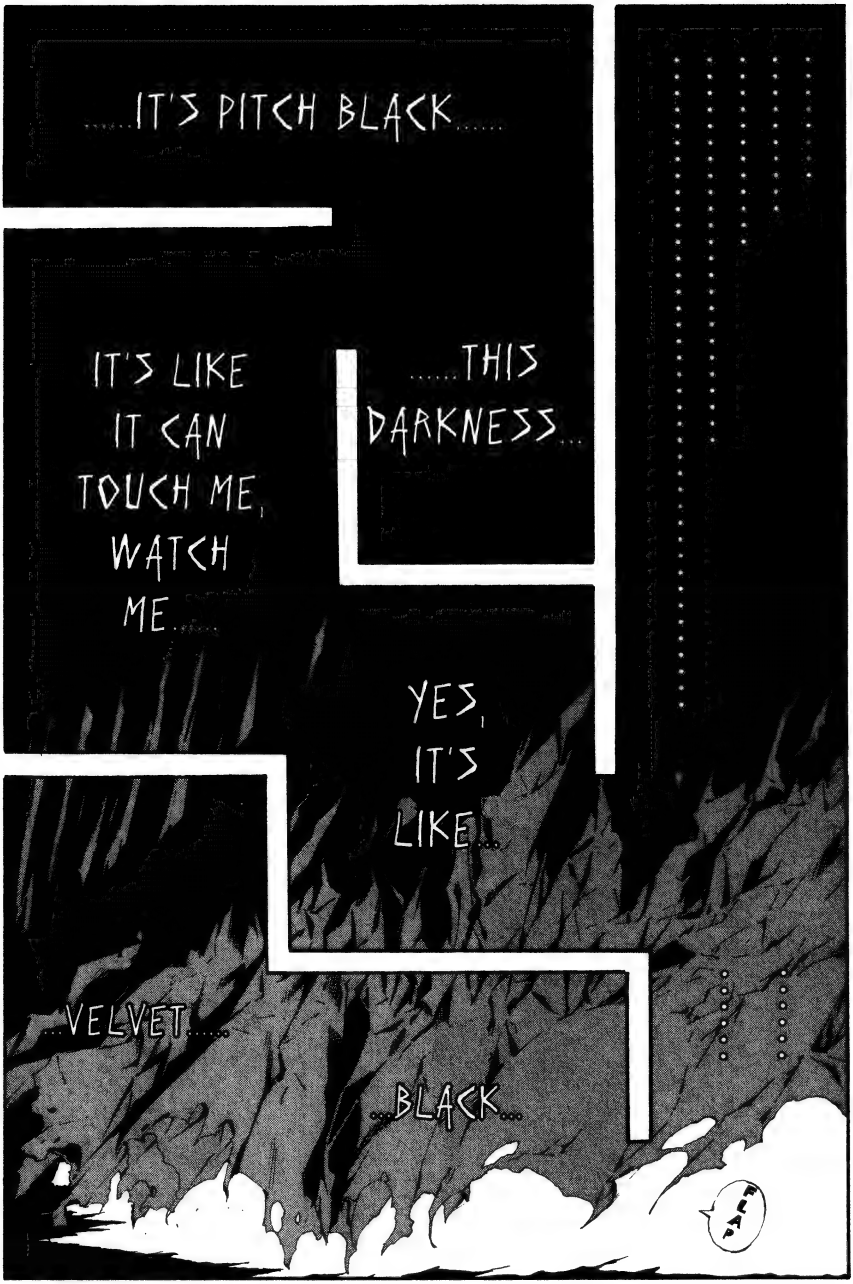
ACK!
AAAA

HEY, JING, YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR!!
THUD
HMM, THIS SEEMS TO BE SOME KIND OF ANTI-PERSONNEL SECURITY SYSTEM.
YIIIN
JJAFH
?

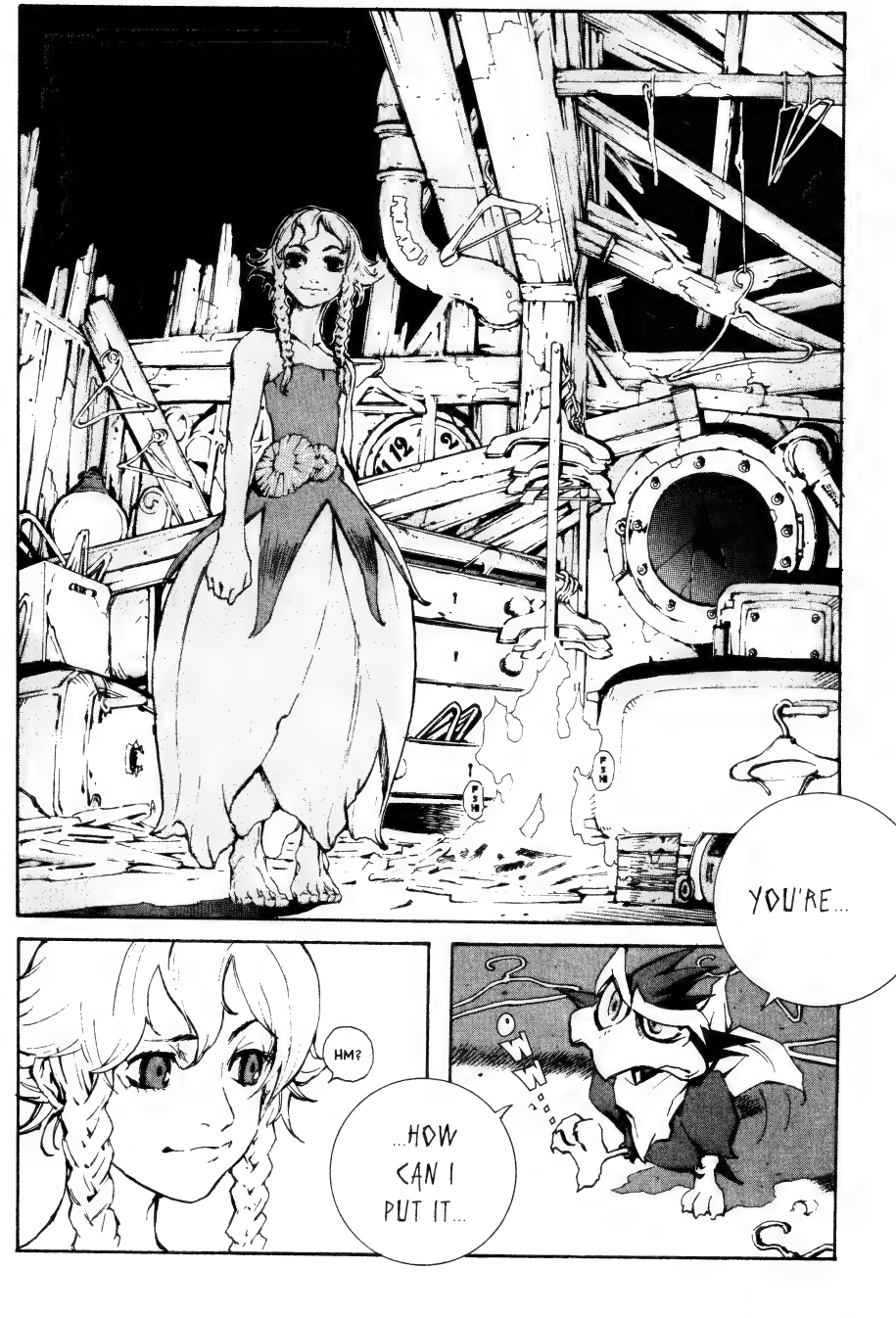
KLAK
LOOKS LIKE THE TIME HAS COME TO MAKE OUR EXIT.
WHAT THE?!
JING! WAIT! HEY!!
HUH?

BOOOM
GAHI
EEKI EEPI
ARGHII

HEEEY!
HEEEEEEEEY!!
YOU'RE TAKIN' A NAP?! HEY!!
JING! HEY, JIIING!!
SKREE
JING! I CAN'T HOLD ON ANYMORE!!


.....IT'S PITCH BLACK.....
IT'S LIKE IT CAN TOUCH ME, WATCH ME.....
.....THIS DARKNESS...
YES, IT'S LIKE...
...VELVET.....
...BLACK...
FLAP

THESE ARE THE DEEPEST DEPTHS OF DARKNESS... THE BOTTOM OF NIGHT...
...IF THERE EVEN IS A MORNING HERE...
I DON'T THINK THE SUN IS EVER GOING TO RISE AND WAKE YOU UP, SO HOW ABOUT DOING IT ON YOUR OWN?
PLUS YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE NOCTURNAL ANYWAY.


YOU'RE...
OH...
HM?
...HOW CAN I PUT IT...

DON'T BE RUDE TO PRINCESS PICON, KIR.
SMALL.
JUGE
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE SMALLER THAN ME!!!
NOT ONLY DID SHE SAVE US, BUT SHE'S ROYALTY.

SO, WHAT'S A PRINCESS DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...
WHERE THE HELL ARE WE?!!
WAIT! BETTER YET--
I DIDN'T REALLY DO MUCH TO SAVE YOU, AND I'M MERELY A VERY DISTANT RELATIVE OF THE KING.
IT SEEMS THEY CALL THIS PLACE THE CAPITAL OF CLOTHES AND RUIN.
LOOKS LIKE WE PAID BIGTIME FOR STEALING THE HOLY SUIT. TALK ABOUT KARMA.

IT'LL BE EASIER TO UNDERSTAND ONCE YOU SEE THE CITY.
I KNOW MY WAY AROUND HERE BETTER THAN YOU...
...SO I'LL GIVE YOU THE GRAND TOUR. FIRST, WHERE I FOUND YOU...
...IT'S A WONDERFUL PLAZA. PEOPLE CALL IT...

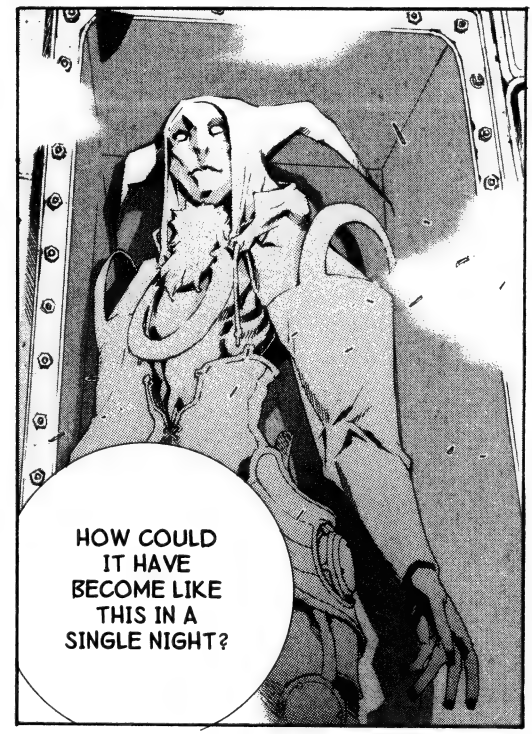
...THE PLAZA OF THE GIANT'S VEST.

JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THIS HUGE PATTERN!
THAT'S WHY WHEN YOU GUYS LANDED, I THOUGHT THE GIANTS HAD RETURNED TO SERVE US.
But you two ended up being tiny.
YOU CAN'T SIZE UP A MAN'S WORTH WITH A MEASURING TAPE, HONEY.
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
HA, RIGHT!

YOU DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY FOR A NEW SET OF CLOTHES, DID YOU?
SO, WHAT'RE YOU BIG BOYS DOING HERE?
I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT... A CLASS PICNIC?
HA HA HA! YEAH? THEN YOU BETTER STAY CLOSE TO YOUR TEACHER!

RRIP
YEEEES, MA'AAAM!!!
...R-RESEARCH...?
GOOD BOY! HOW ABOUT HELPING WITH TEACHER'S RESEARCH?
YES. WHAT MADE THIS CITY FLOURISH?

AND HOW DID IT PERISH?

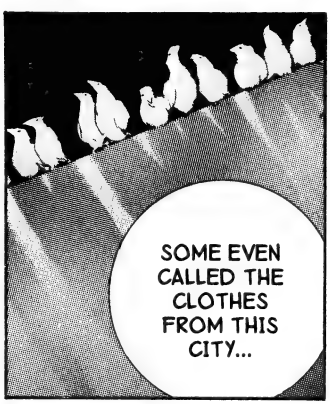

HOW COULD IT HAVE BECOME LIKE THIS IN A SINGLE NIGHT?

THIS CITY CREATED CLOTHES THAT COUNTRIES ALL OVER THE WORLD FOUGHT EACH OTHER TO IMPORT...

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO LEARN!!

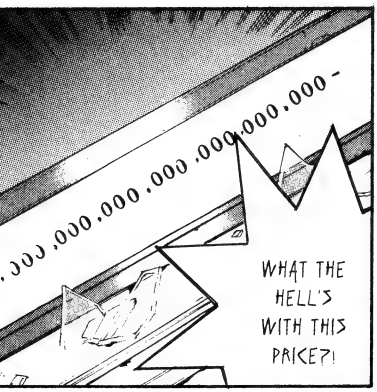
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL, PRINCESS!
I SEE, CLASS AND KNOWLEDGE.

...A SECOND SKIN.

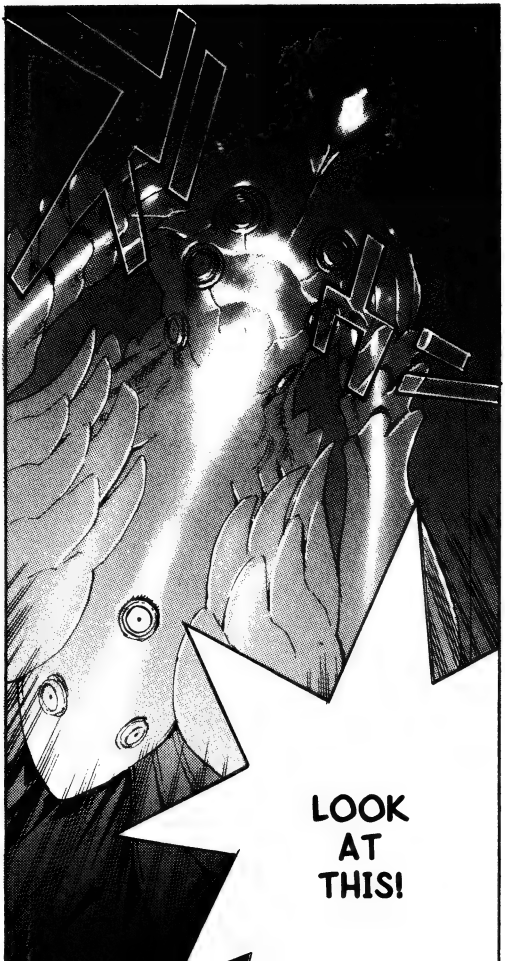

SOME EVEN CALLED THE CLOTHES FROM THIS CITY...

THAT FACT THAT CLOTHES THEMSELVES COULD HAVE SUCH AN INFLUENCE IS AMAZING TO US.
YES--WE DON'T HAVE WHAT YOU'D CALL CLOTHES. THIS IS ALL WE WEAR FROM BIRTH UNTIL DEATH.
US...?
OUR GOD TELLS US TO WEAR ONLY PETALS AND CLAD OURSELVES WITH THE SCENT OF FLOWERS.

GOD MAKES ME WEAR ONLY BLACK!
YOU THINK YOU'RE SPECIAL?
TSK
TSK
TSK


.000.000.000.000.000.000.000-
WHAT THE HELL'S WITH THIS PRICE?!

OH YEAH, I'VE HEARD OF THIS BEFORE...

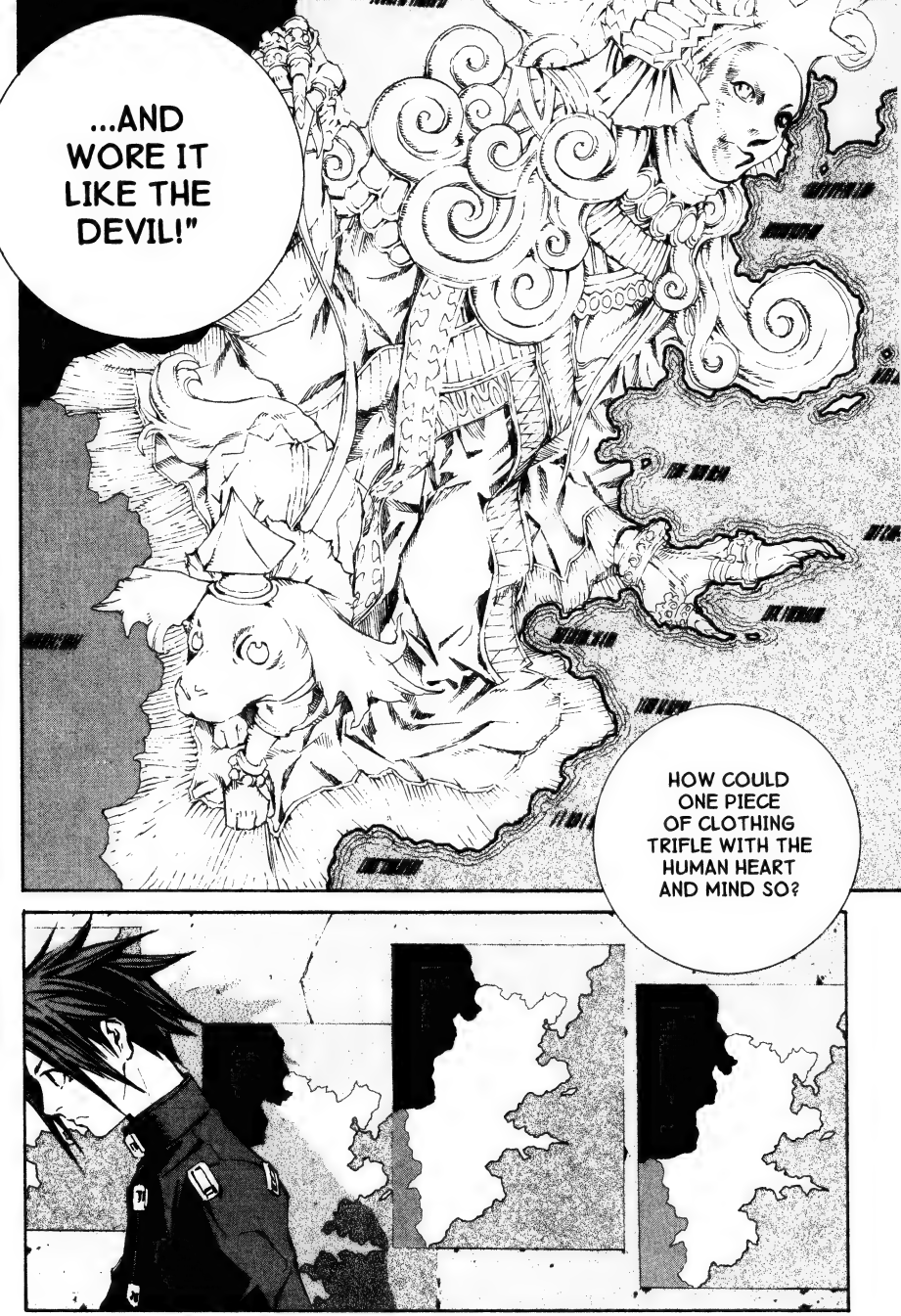

LOOK AT THIS!

...SOLD HER COUNTRY'S MOST PRODUCTIVE FARMLAND...

FOR HER WEDDING, THE DAUGHTER OF A KING...

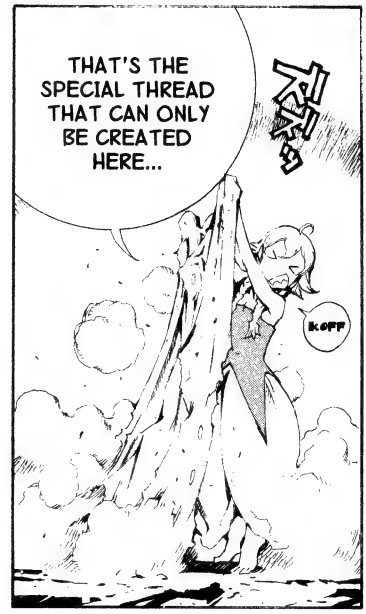
...IN ORDER TO BUY A SINGLE UNDERGARMENT...

YES! AND THAT WAS CREATED HERE!
AND IN HER HOME COUNTRY, THE GIRL WAS DESCRIBED AS...
"THE GIRL WHO RIPPED OFF THE LAND AND SEWED IT TOGETHER LIKE A GOD...
トン


...AND WORE IT LIKE THE DEVIL!"
HOW COULD ONE PIECE OF CLOTHING TRIFLE WITH THE HUMAN HEART AND MIND SO?

SUCH A CREATION WOULD SOON BE FULL OF RUNS...
TSK
HMMM
GLORY SPUN FROM THREAD-- I SEE, I SEE.
UNRAVEL
TAT
IN A DAZZLING TOWN WITH NO NIGHTFALL...
...ONE DAY, ETERNAL NIGHT SUDDENLY ARRIVED...

A NIGHT... OF BLUE... FLAMES...?


THAT'S THE SPECIAL THREAD THAT CAN ONLY BE CREATED HERE...
ドカッ
K.OFF

...AND IT WAS SURROUNDED BY THE NIGHT OF BLUE FLAMES.

...AND THE CITY WAS SWALLOWED UP BY THE BLUE FLAME RELEASED WHEN THE CLOTHES ARE BURNED.
THIS DARKNESS LIKE VELVET.
GRUMBLE
AND THEN THE DARKNESS CAME--
SO AM I THE ONLY ONE MANLY ENOUGH TO WEAR THIS DARKNESS...?
ギュン

THOUGH... IF I WEAR TOO MUCH, I CAN'T EVEN SEE MY FINGERS...
NEVER MIND, ALL THIS IS IS STUPID DARKNESS!
OUCH! DAMMIT!
...BEING SO FASHIONAB-- DWWW!!
IT'S TOUGH, YOU KNOW...
YO, JING, WATCH YOUR STEP.
?!!!

WHO KNOWS WHAT WE'LL RUN INTO...
WHA?!!

ガラガラ
アアアア

KIIIIR!!
GIVE 'IM A BREAK--HE COULDN'T SEE WHERE HE WAS GOING.
GYAK!
HE'S NOT AN OWL.
HELP!
I GOTCHA!
SPLAT

SHHHK!
CHIK-CHIK.
...HH

WHOA!
JING!!

!!!
TUG
GUH
...
HEY, JING!
COME ON,
LET'S GET
OUTTA HERE!!

HUH? WHAT?
LOOK WHO'S TALKING!!
GLUG
STOP RELAXING AND TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY, JING!

WHAM
SKA
SKA
BAM
TAK

NICE NEW BLUE HAT RIGHT OUTTA THE OVEN FOR YA!

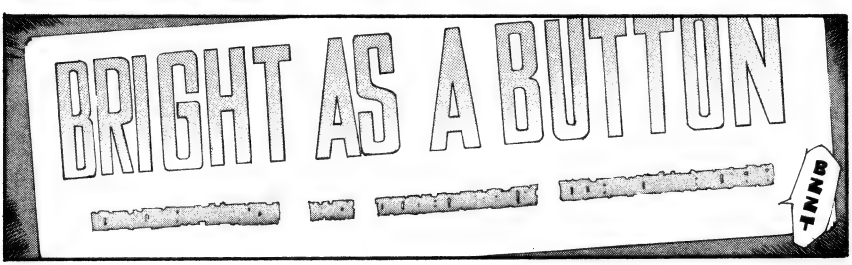
CAREFUL, IT'S STILL HOT.
BAM

DARN, AND THAT WAS A PERFECTLY GOOD JACKET...
WELL, I WAS THINKING ABOUT TRYING A NEW BRAND.
GULP
COULD YOU HELP ME OUT WITH SOME-THING...?

WHICH BUTTON WOULD LOOK BEST ON ME?!

H-HEY, JING... LOOK...
UNDER HIS CLOTHES...

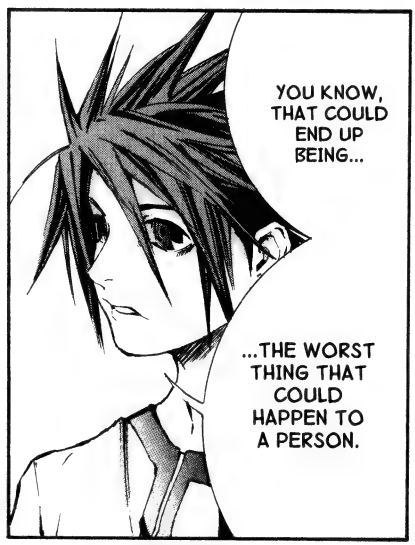
HE'S LIKE A MUMMY.

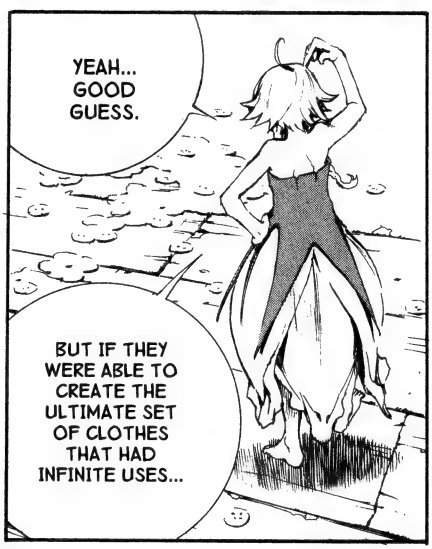

BRIGHT AS A BUTTON
BUNI

SO THEN... HE DIED HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO OR SOMETHING?

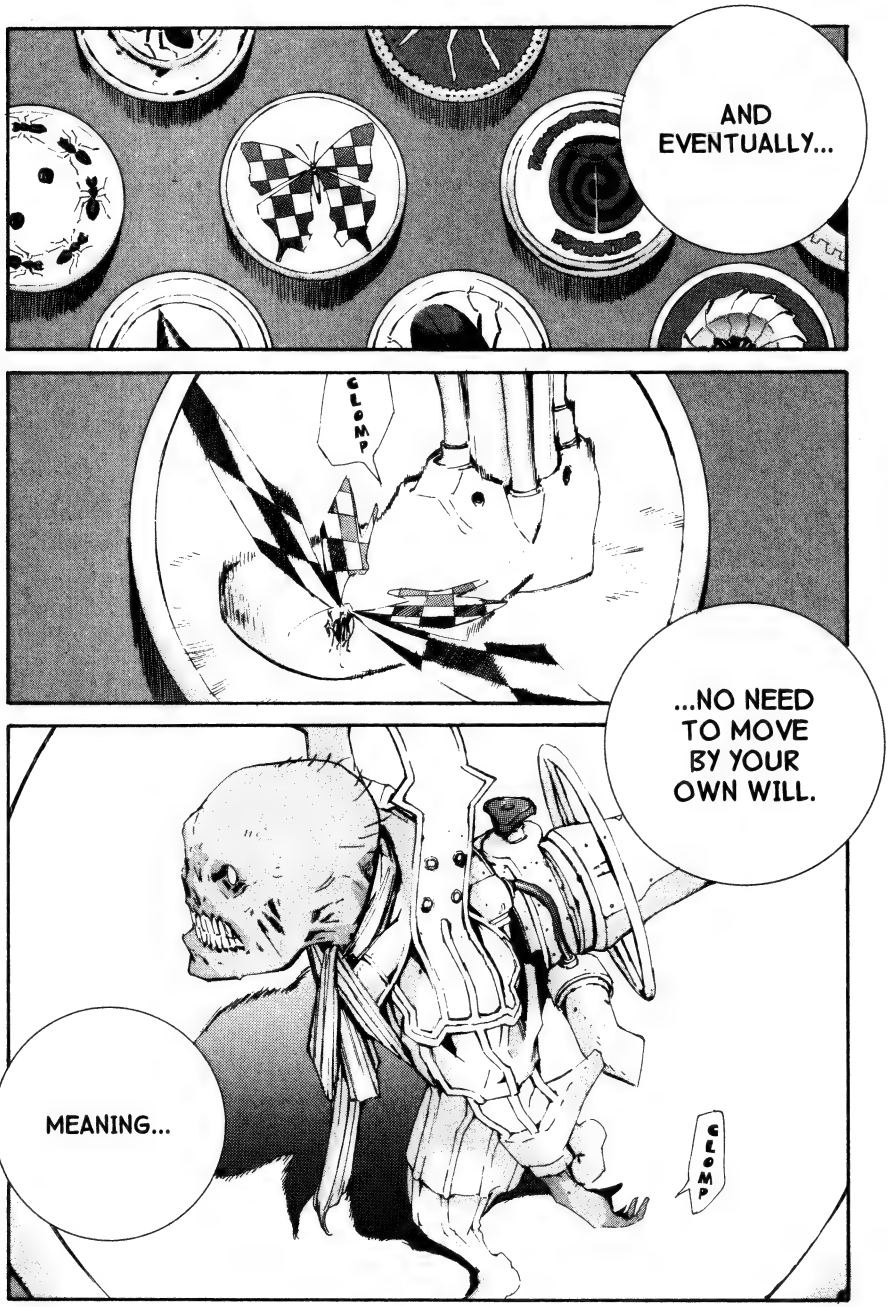
LIKE WHEN HE...GULP... OH! FINALLY GOT IT!
BUT HE SEEMED PRETTY LIVELY...
PTUI
モゾ モゾ
HE GAVE US A VERY WARM RECEPTION... GULP GULP.
THAT WASN'T THE FACE OF SOMEONE WHO DIED PEACEFULLY OR RECENTLY.
ACCORDING TO MY RESEARCH, THAT DESIGN WAS THE NEWEST AT THE TIME THE CITY WAS DESTROYED.
NO FARMING
THAT WAS DEFINITELY WAY BEYOND MERE CLOTHES.
NO FARMING

MORE LIKE A COFFIN YOU WEAR.


YOU KNOW, THAT COULD END UP BEING...
...THE WORST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN TO A PERSON.


YEAH... GOOD GUESS.
BUT IF THEY WERE ABLE TO CREATE THE ULTIMATE SET OF CLOTHES THAT HAD INFINITE USES...

NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE HEAT OR THE COLD...
NO NEED TO BUY MORE CLOTHES OR CHANGE OUTFITS...
NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING DIRTY...
NO NEED EVEN TO REPAIR RIPPED SEAMS...


AND EVENTUALLY...
GLOMP
...NO NEED TO MOVE BY YOUR OWN WILL.
MEANING...
GLOMP

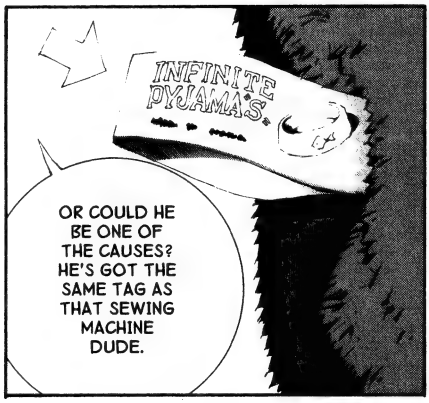
NO NEED TO EVEN BE ALIVE...
CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP
BZZZT

THE CLOTHES HAVE BEEN CONTROLLING HIM FOR THE LAST FEW HUNDRED YEARS.
SO, THE ADVANCED CLOTHES THAT ONCE COVERED HIS BODY NOW BIND HIS SOUL.
THAT'S WHY I GO COMMANDO, BABY.
WHY BE CONSTRICTED WHEN YOU CAN BE FREE?!!

?
?
?
WHAT?
WHAT WAS THAT?! I'M INNOCENT!
MFJWC?
RELAX, KIR, IT MAY BE A FRIEND...
PANT
PANT
PANT
LOOK, A JET-BLACK PUPPY. ♥♥

COULD THIS PUPPY ALSO BE A VICTIM OF THE NIGHT OF BLUE FLAMES?
PANT PANT

PANT
PANT
PANT

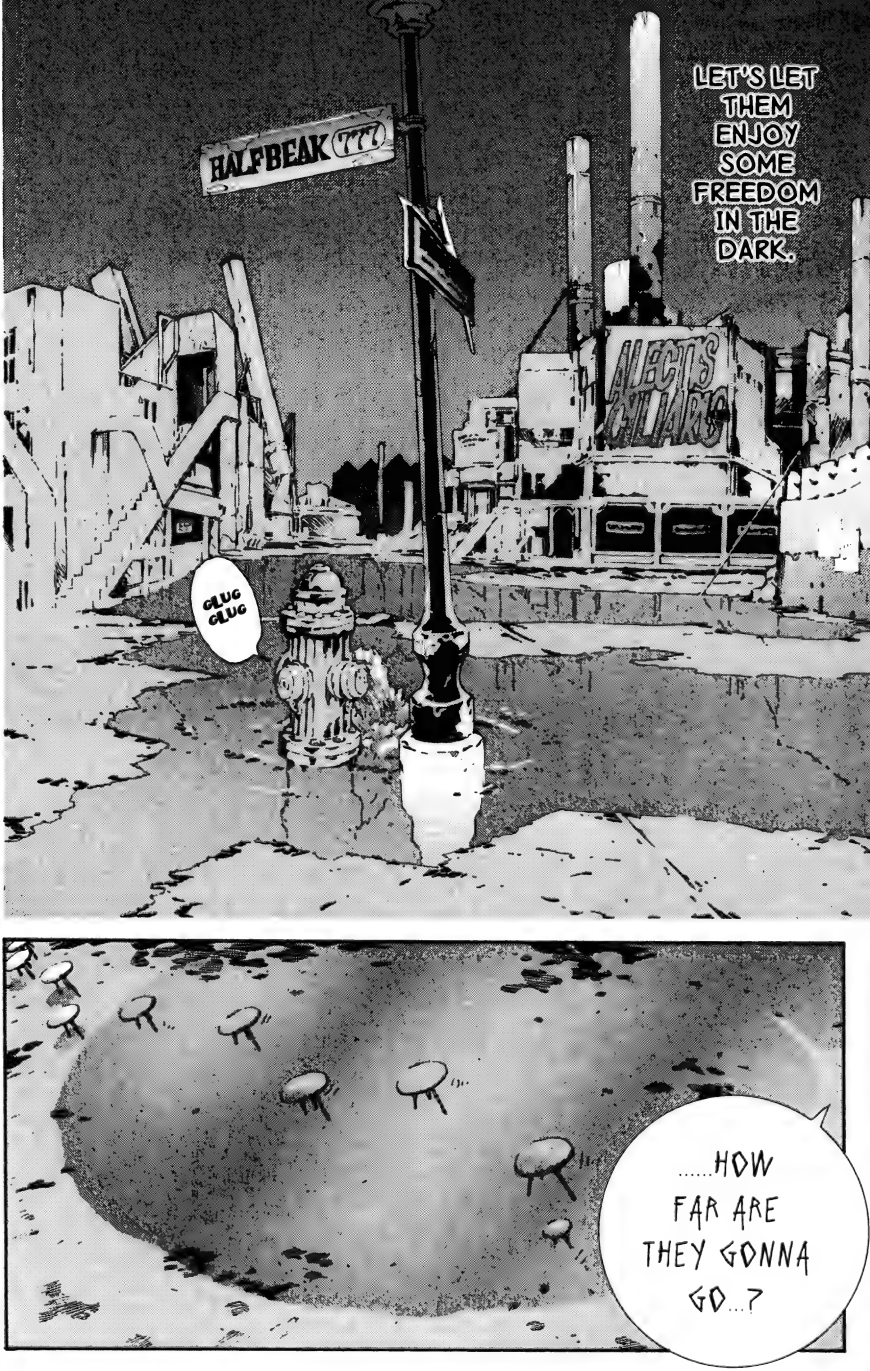

INFINITE PYJAMAS
OR COULD HE BE ONE OF THE CAUSES? HE'S GOT THE SAME TAG AS THAT SEWING MACHINE DUDE.

YEAH RIGHT, THIS LITTLE DUDE'S GOTTA BE A VICTIM..

A CAUSE!
DEFINITELY
A CAUSE...
BOOM

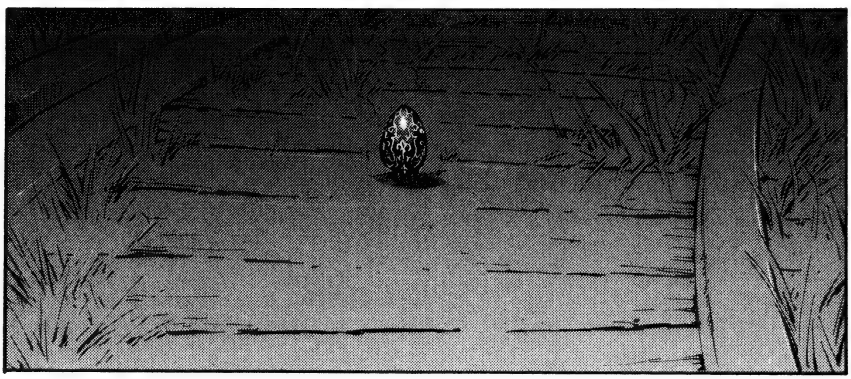
!!!!!!!!!
カタカナカナカナカナカナカナカナカナカナ
ちちちちちちっ...
....
CLIK
click

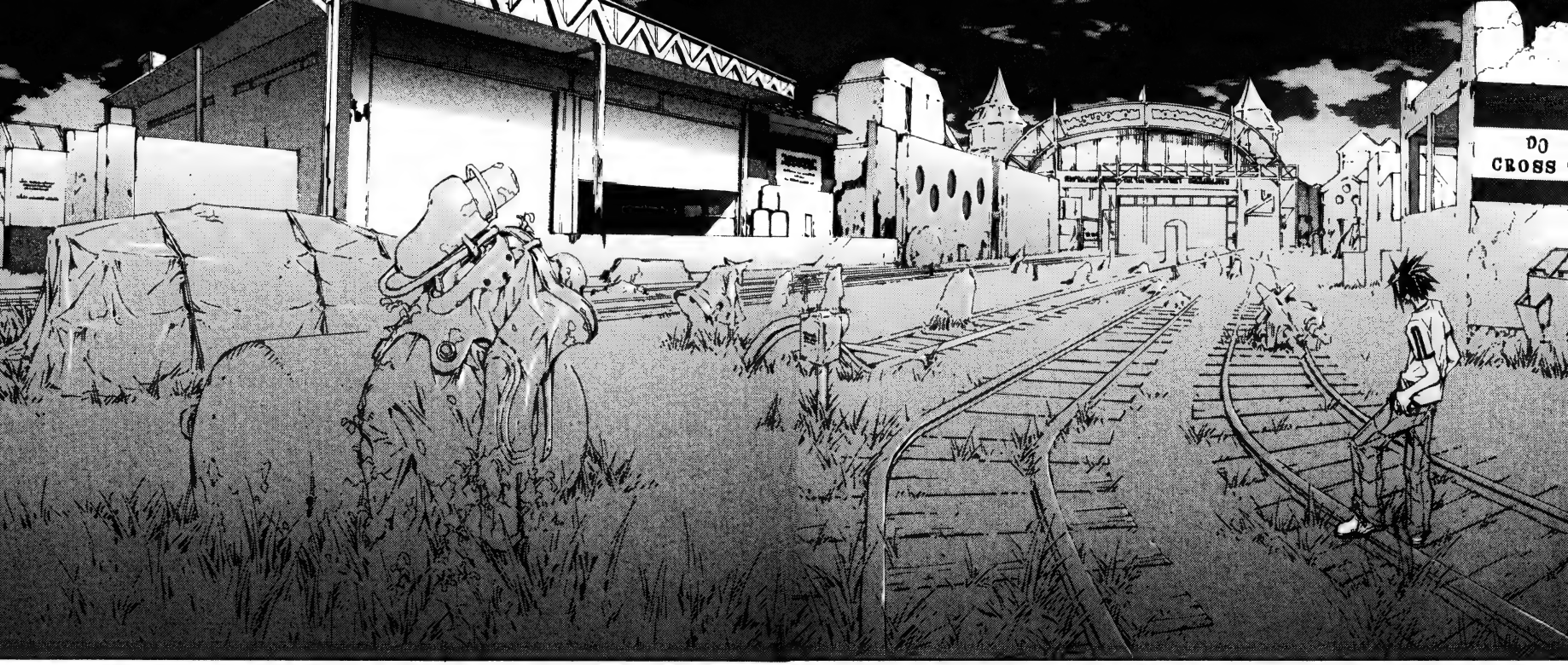
OH!!
555...
CREAK
STOP THAT DOG, JING! HE'S A PRIME WITNESS!
ACTUALLY, PRIME SUSPECT! GET HIM!
LET'S FOLLOW ALL OF THEM. IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT THIS CITY IS LIKE A PRISON...


HALFBEAK
LET'S LET THEM ENJOY SOME FREEDOM IN THE DARK.
GLUG GLUG
.....HOW FAR ARE THEY GONNA GO...?

LI'L THINGIES...
チチチ...
THIS LOOKS LIKE...
...SOME KIND OF HOMING INSTINCT.
INSTINCT? I THINK I'VE HEARD OF THAT AMONG BIRDS.
I GET IT...
IT'S AN AUTOMATIC FUNCTION FOR WHEN THEY'RE DAMAGED OR NEED PARTS REPLACED.

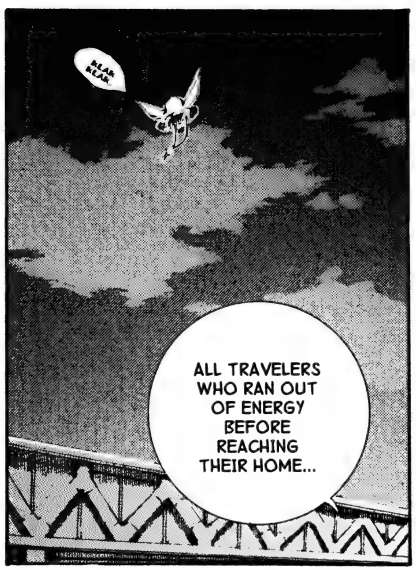
THAT'S WHY THAT HOLY SUIT WE STOLE TOOK OFF-
IT HEADED TOWARD WHERE THESE GUYS ARE GOING NOW.
BUT JUST WHAT KIND OF PLACE COULD IT BE?
LIFE IS AN UNENDING BATTLE BETWEEN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE AND HOME LIFE.
OR SOME-THING
SO, THEY'RE HEADED HOME?

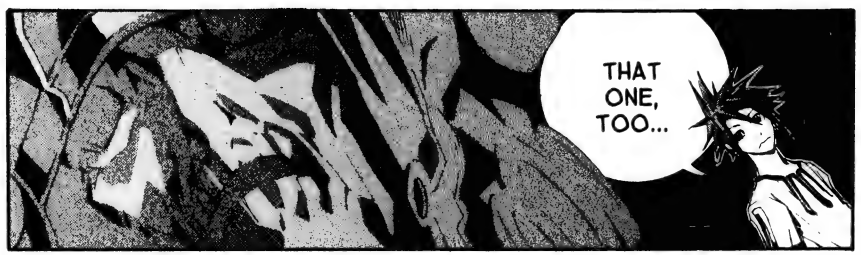



DO
CROSS

HEY!
YOU DEPENDANT.

IT'S JUST LIKE WHAT'S WRITTEN ON THE TAG...


BEAK BEAK
ALL TRAVELERS WHO RAN OUT OF ENERGY BEFORE REACHING THEIR HOME...

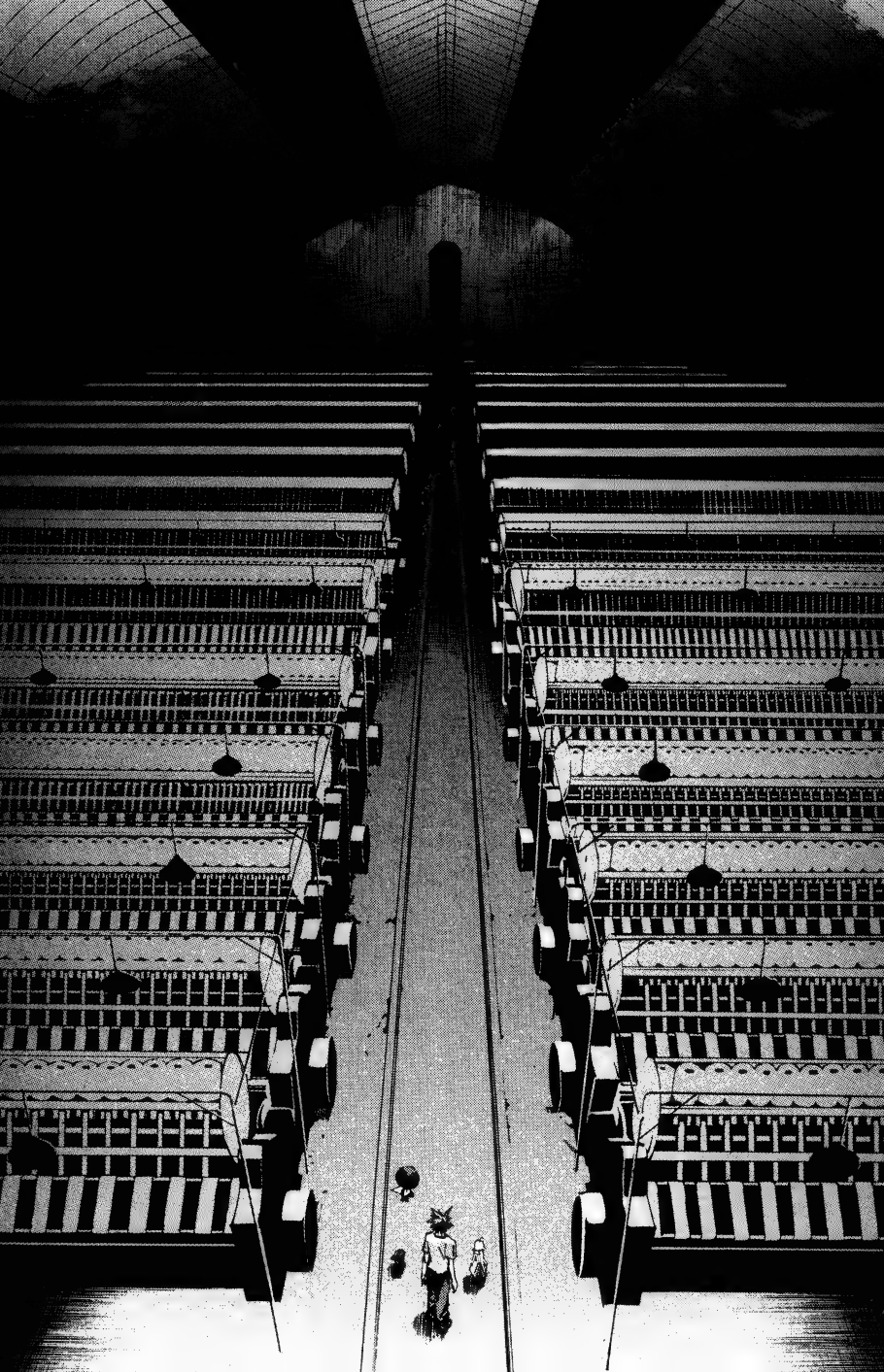

THAT ONE, TOO...

AND THAT...

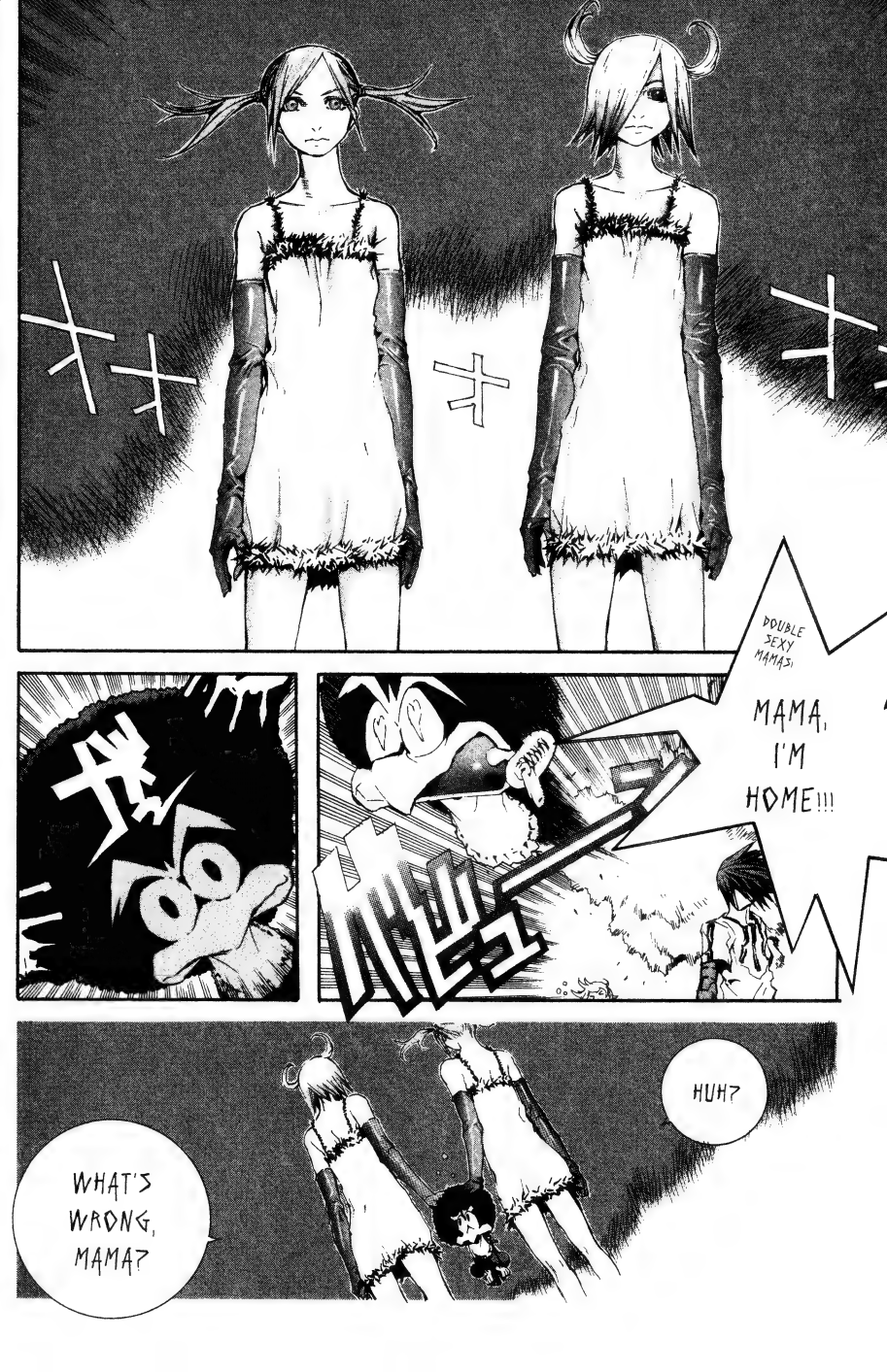
AND THEM...

INFINITE PAJAMAS.
INFINITE PYJAMAS.
ALL THE CLOTHES ARE MERELY PAJAMAS...
...THAT YOU PUT ON BEFORE THE GREAT SLEEP.

BEING HERE REALLY MAKES ME FEEL IT.
THEIR HOME IS PROBABLY JUST A BUNCH OF CLOTHES. IT'S NOT LIKE YOUR SKIN WILL GET RIPPED OFF... I HOPE.
HEH.
HEH
ARE YOU COLD? ARE YOU AFRAID? YOU'RE SHAKING, AREN'T YOU?
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.



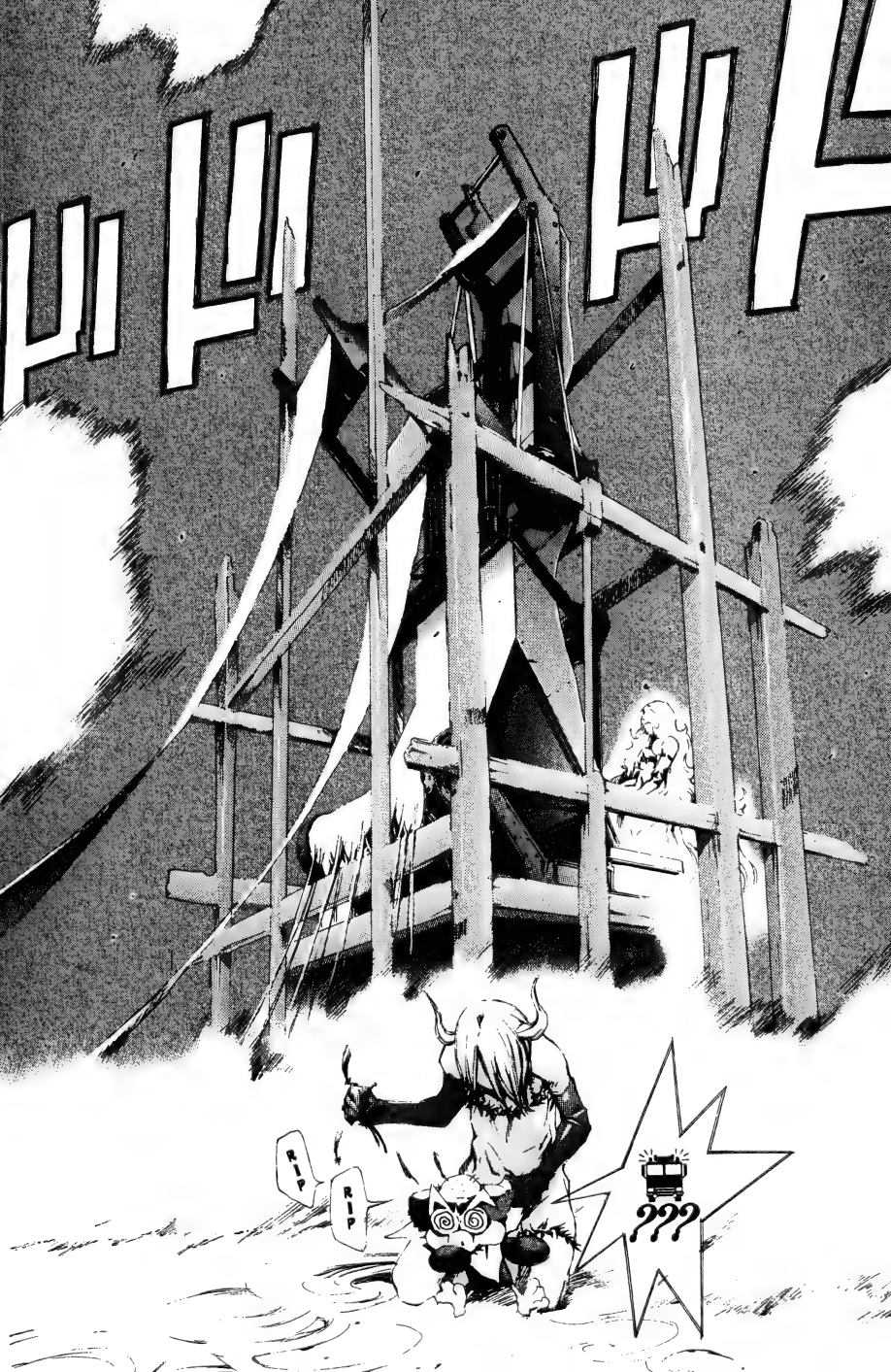
LINE-7
SO, THIS IS THEIR HOME?
LINE-7
KLOP
KLOP
TAT
TAT
I'M NOT SEEING ANY HARMONY OR EVEN RESTING PLACES--IT'S JUST A HUGE FACTORY...
LINE-5
LINE-5
HEY... WHO'S THERE?!

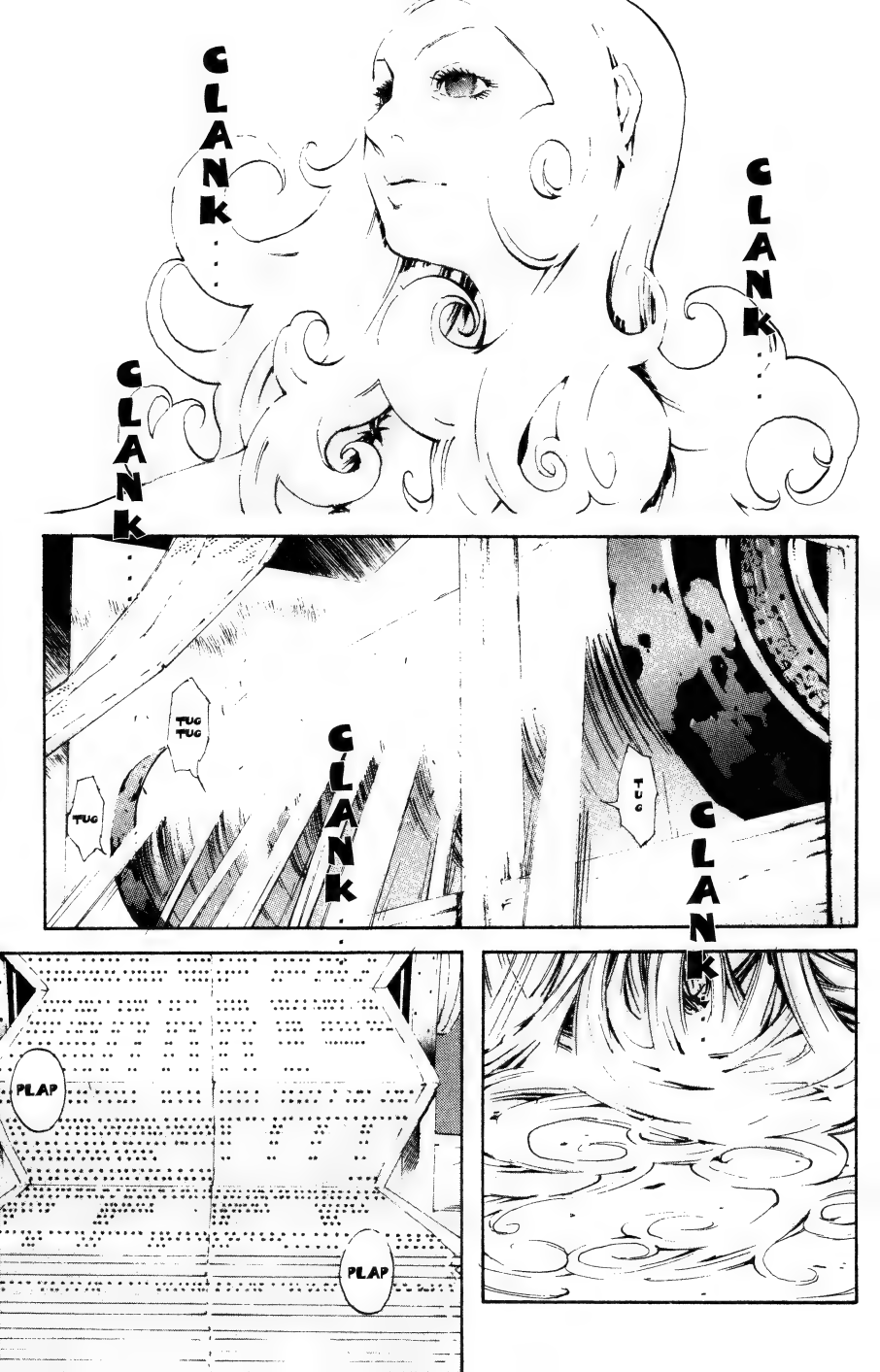

DOUBLE SEXY MAMAS!
MAMA, I'M HOME!!!
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG, MAMA?

AAAA

H-
HUH?!
WHAT
THE?!
WHA?!!
I DON'T
WANNA GO
TO BED!!
MAMA,
MAMA...
Wait,
why'm I
saying
"mama"?
YAAAWN
NICE
YAWN!!

JING!!
KIIIIIIR!!!
IF YOU SLEEP IN WEIRD PLACES...
...YOU'LL CATCH A COLD!


RIP
RIP
???

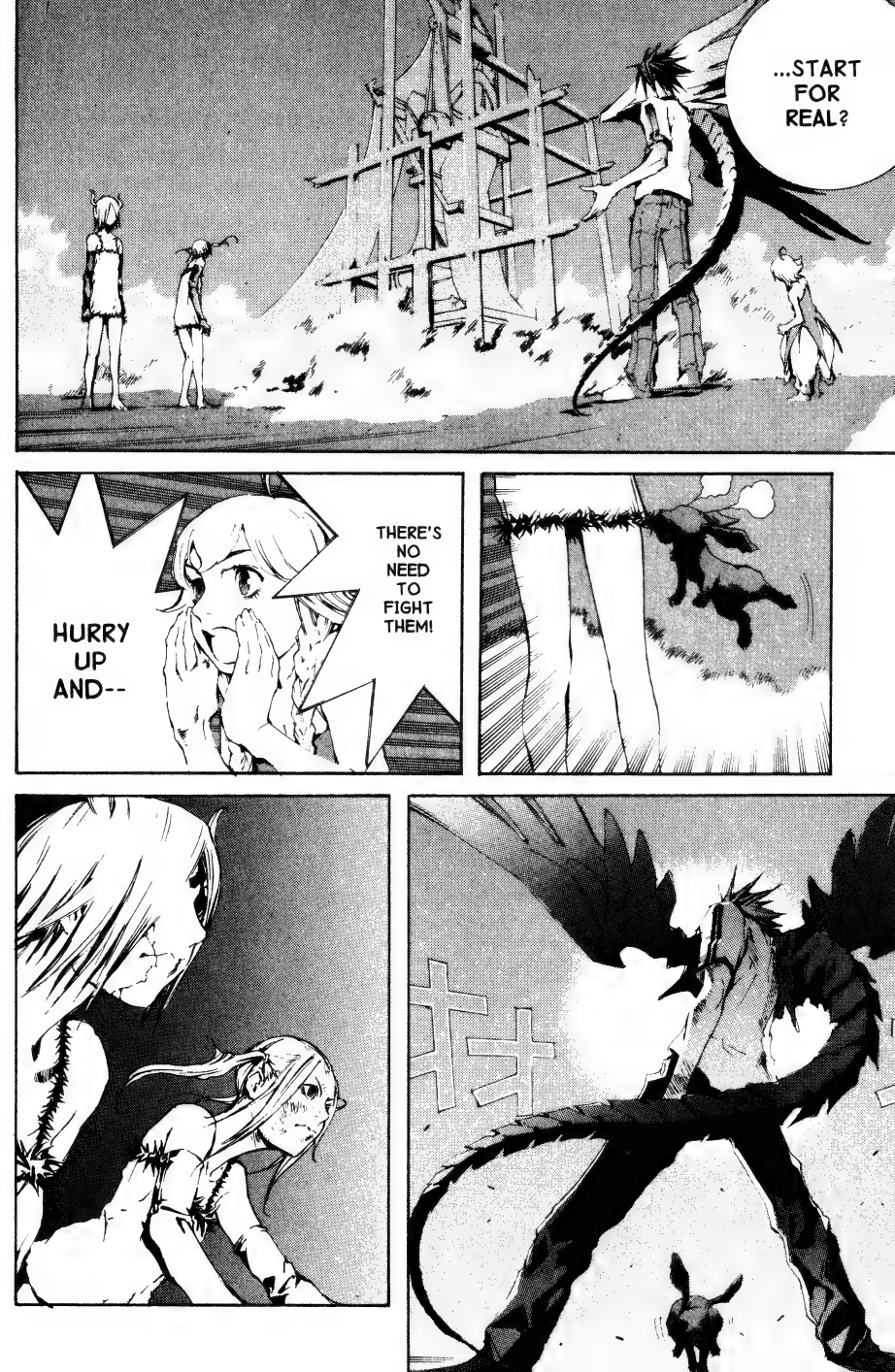

CLANK...
CLANK...
CLANK...
CLANK...
TUG TUG
TUG
CLANK...
TUG
CLANK...
PLAP
PLAP

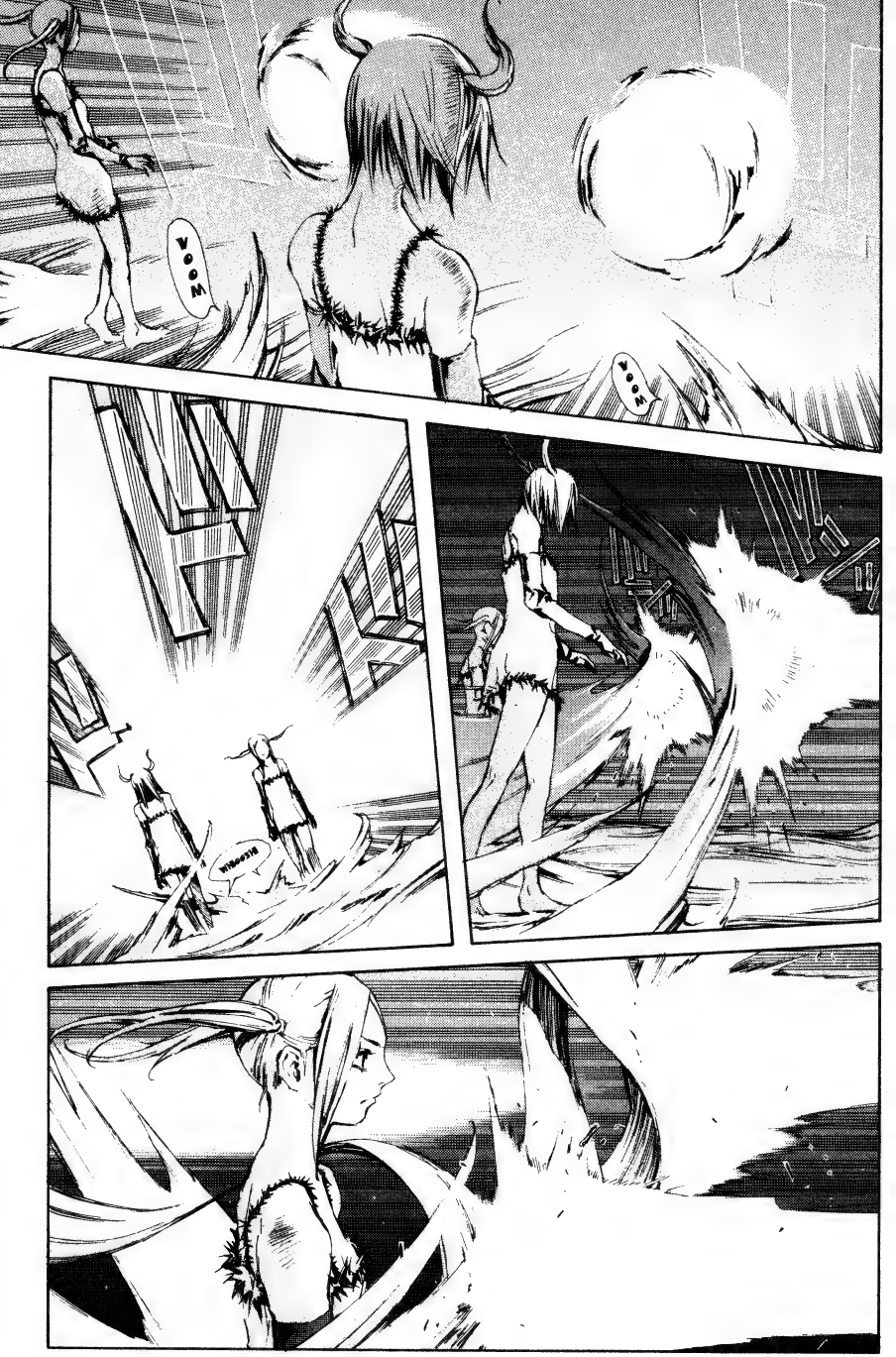
UGH
THEY ARE RIPPING OFF OUR SKIN, PICON!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU?

YAAAAAH!!
YOU GOT ANY MORE YAWNS IN THERE?!
Go for it!
YOU SHOULDN'T FIGHT OVER ME!
P-PLEASE STOP...
Oww!

I-I NEVER MEANT TO HURT YOU...
THERE'S NO NEED TO KILL EACH OTHER OVER ME!!
SO MANY WOMEN... ALL AFTER ME...
EEEK!

ALL RIGHT, KIR!
SORRY FOR THE WAIT!
I FINALLY GOT IT!!
HUH?
?!!
ALL RIGHT!
NOW THAT YOU LOOK PRESENTABLE, SHALL WE...
HERE.


...START FOR REAL?
THERE'S NO NEED TO FIGHT THEM!
HURRY UP AND--


WOOM
WOOM

WEEZ
TALK ABOUT STRONG AND LUSTROUS HAIR...
WEEZ
WEEZ
HMM... REJUVENATING SHAMPOO?
PING
JING! THAT CARD! THE CARD UP THERE!
THE COMMANDS ARE BEING INPUTTED INTO THAT CLOTH UP THERE!

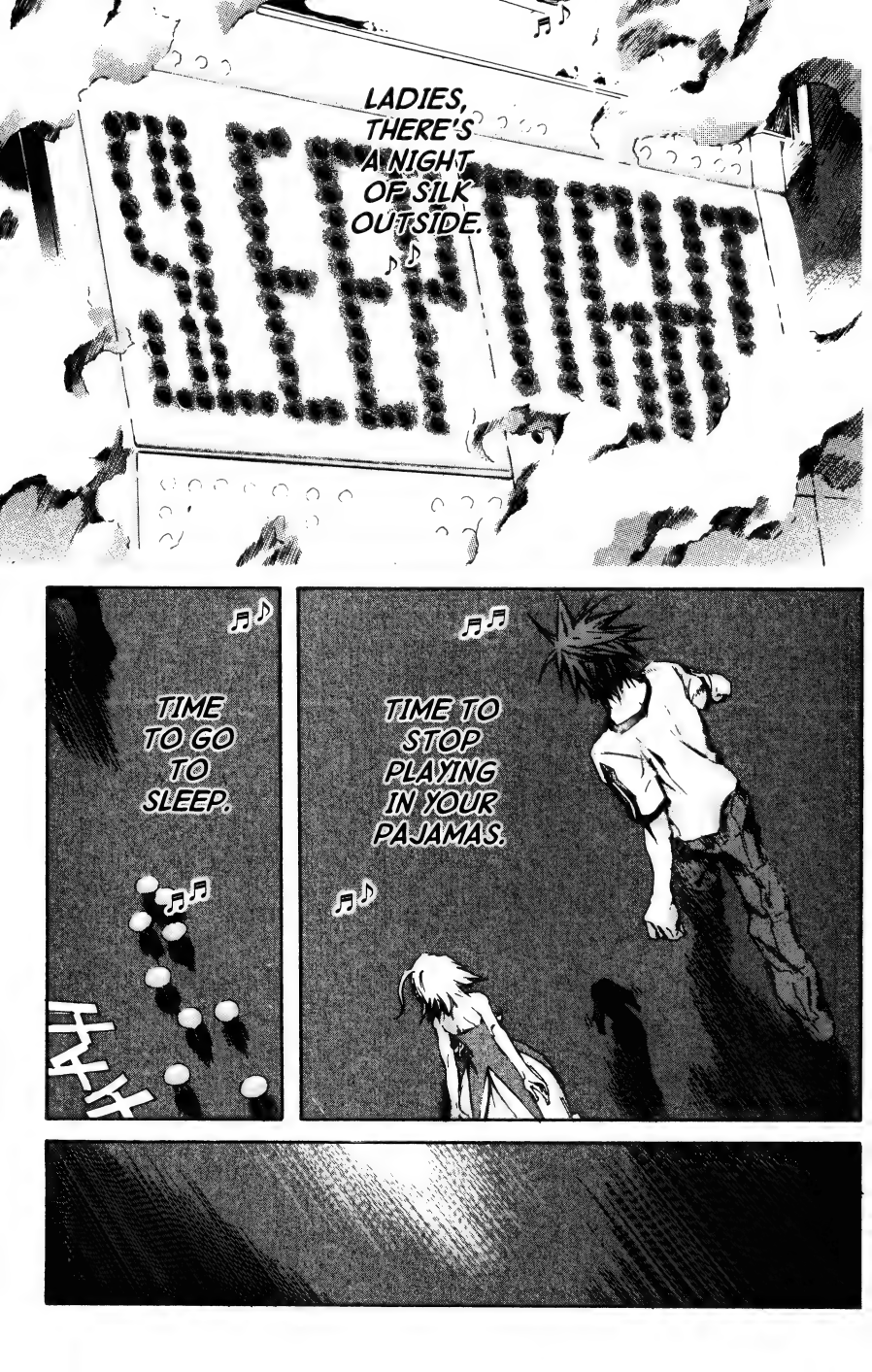
I SEE... NORMAL COMMUNICATION JUST ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH?
WHOOSH
WRITE... WITH ALL MY HEART...
TAT
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO, JING?

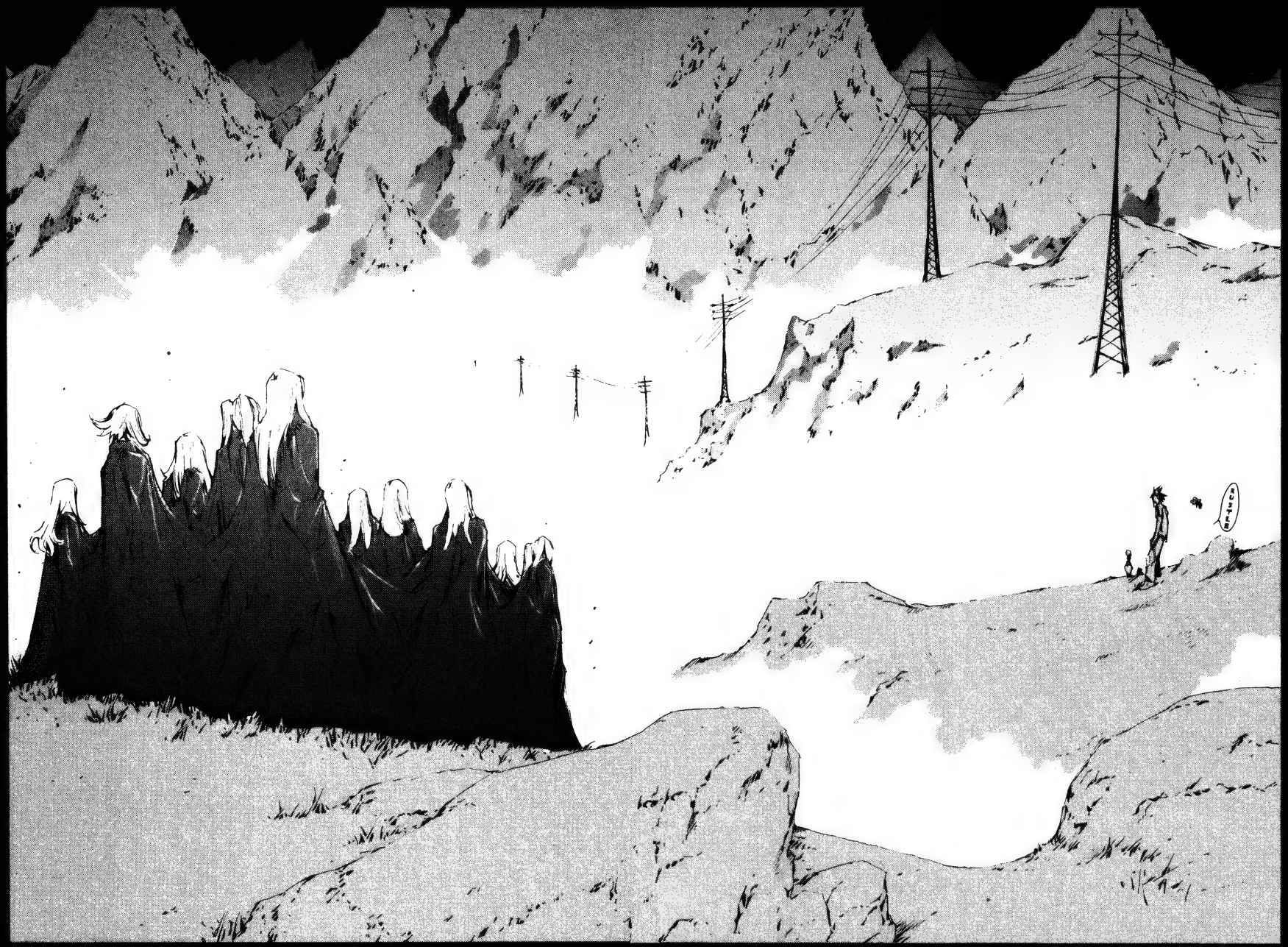
...A LOVE LETTER FOR THESE FINE LADIES.
DDDHHH
ACT LIKE YOU'RE GIVING THEM A KISS, KIR!

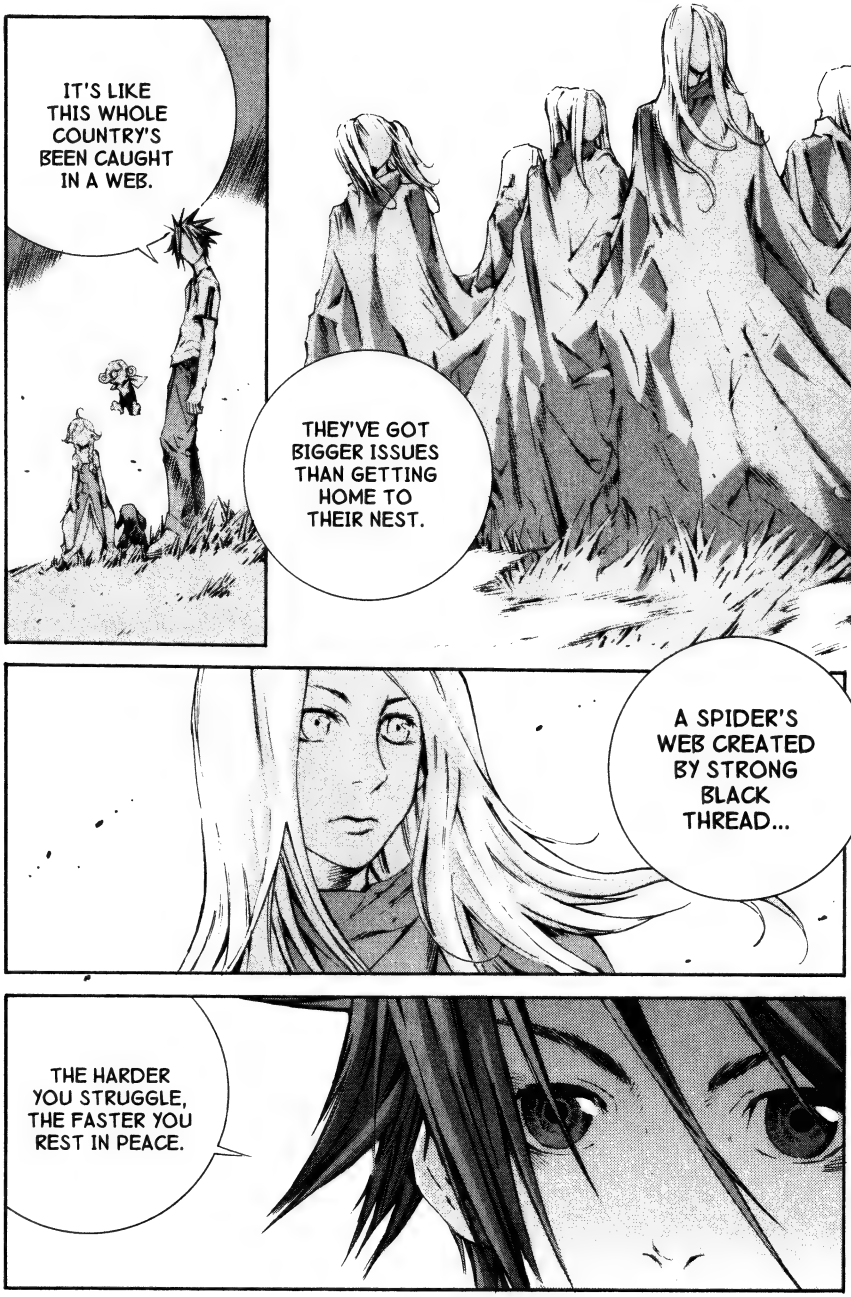
SOMETIMES A KISS IS THE WRONG MOVE!
JIIIING!!
?!
?!!
Uah!
WRAP
WRAP
Kiiy!
MAYBE WE SHOULD'VE BEEN WRITING A WILL INSTEAD?!!

SLIP
ALL RIGHT! IT WORKED!

...THEY'VE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO TALK VIA THAT CARD.
SO EVEN A SIMPLE LULLABY...
CRACK
CRACK
FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS NOW...
...IS A LOT OF WORK.


LADIES, THERE'S A NIGHT OF SILK OUTSIDE.
SLEEP NIGHT
TIME TO GO TO SLEEP.
HAH
TIME TO STOP PLAYING IN YOUR PAJAMAS.


HUNTER


IT'S LIKE THIS WHOLE COUNTRY'S BEEN CAUGHT IN A WEB.
THEY'VE GOT BIGGER ISSUES THAN GETTING HOME TO THEIR NEST.
A SPIDER'S WEB CREATED BY STRONG BLACK THREAD...
THE HARDER YOU STRUGGLE, THE FASTER YOU REST IN PEACE.

ヨシ！
LET'S GO BACK TO MY COUNTRY!
WE'VE SEEN ENOUGH... LET'S GO HOME. COME ON.
JUST HOW HAVE YOU COME THIS FAR?
FROM THE SKY LIKE US? FROM THE LAND? FROM A RIVER OR AN OCEAN?
ヒョイ
THAT'S RIGHT, PICON.

OH... IF YOU'RE WONDERING ABOUT THAT...
WAIT, HOW DID I GET HERE?
OH, RIGHT! AFTER LEAVING THE MANSION--
.....
IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT HERE, HOW CAN WE LEAVE?
UMM... WELL...
SEE... UHH...

I GIVE UP... WE'RE SCREWED.
I'M FOLLOWING THE DOG.
.....
...WAIT, WHERE DID I GO????
WHAT EXACTLY IS A-OK?

LOOKS LIKE A DEAD END!

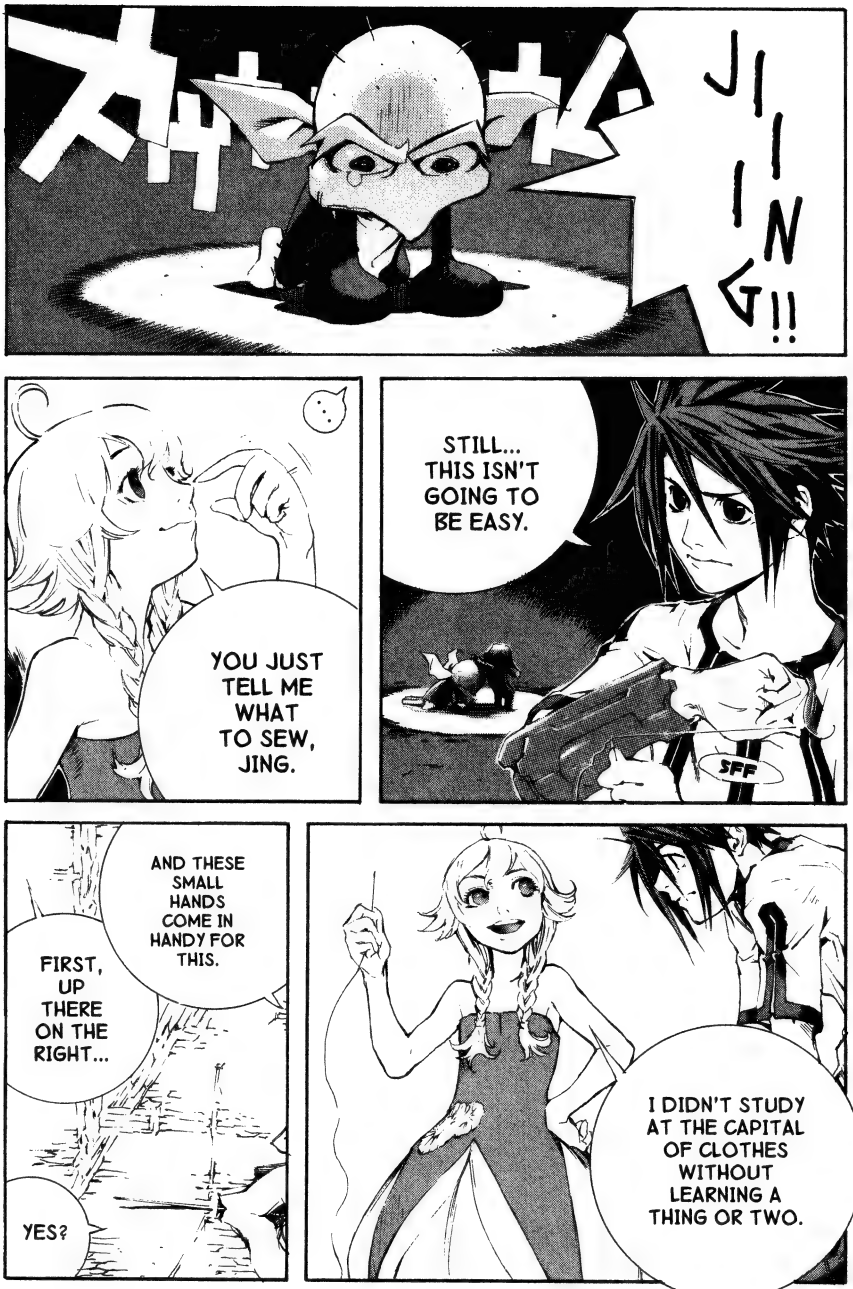
HUH...? HERE TOO... OKAY AGAIN?
GRRAH
WHERE ARE YOU GUYS TAKING ME?
THEY'RE ALL OKAY. WHAT IS THIS?
THEY APPROVE OF ME? WHO DOESN'T?
HEH HEH.

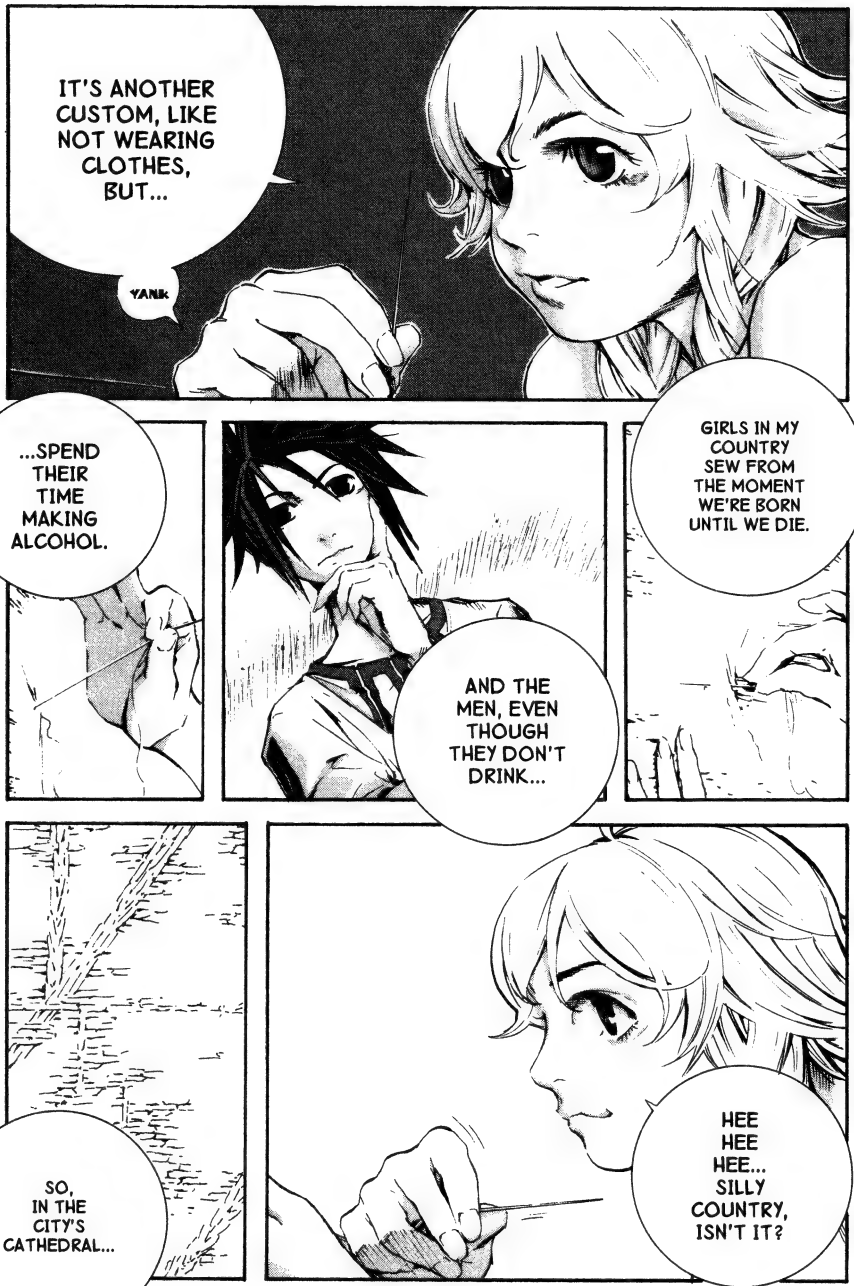
WE WANNA GO FORWARD, BUT...WHICH WAY IS THAT?
LETS GO UP!
THEN UP!
ALL RIGHT! TIME TO HEAD FOR THE SKY!
EEK!
HOLD ON TIGHT!
RUMBLE RUMBLE
HOLD ON, KIR!
THANK YOU FOR RIDING KIR AIR.

LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE ABLE TO MOVE FORWARD.
BUT KIR, I'LL NEED YOUR HELP TO...UMM... HUH?
?
?

FOUND IT! THIS!
SHING
WE CAN'T START WITHOUT ONE OF THESE.
LOOKS LIKE ALL THESE GUYS WERE IN THE SAME LINE OF WORK AS US, KIR.
THEY ALL CAME HERE TO ENTER THE FORBIDDEN CLOSET UP AHEAD...

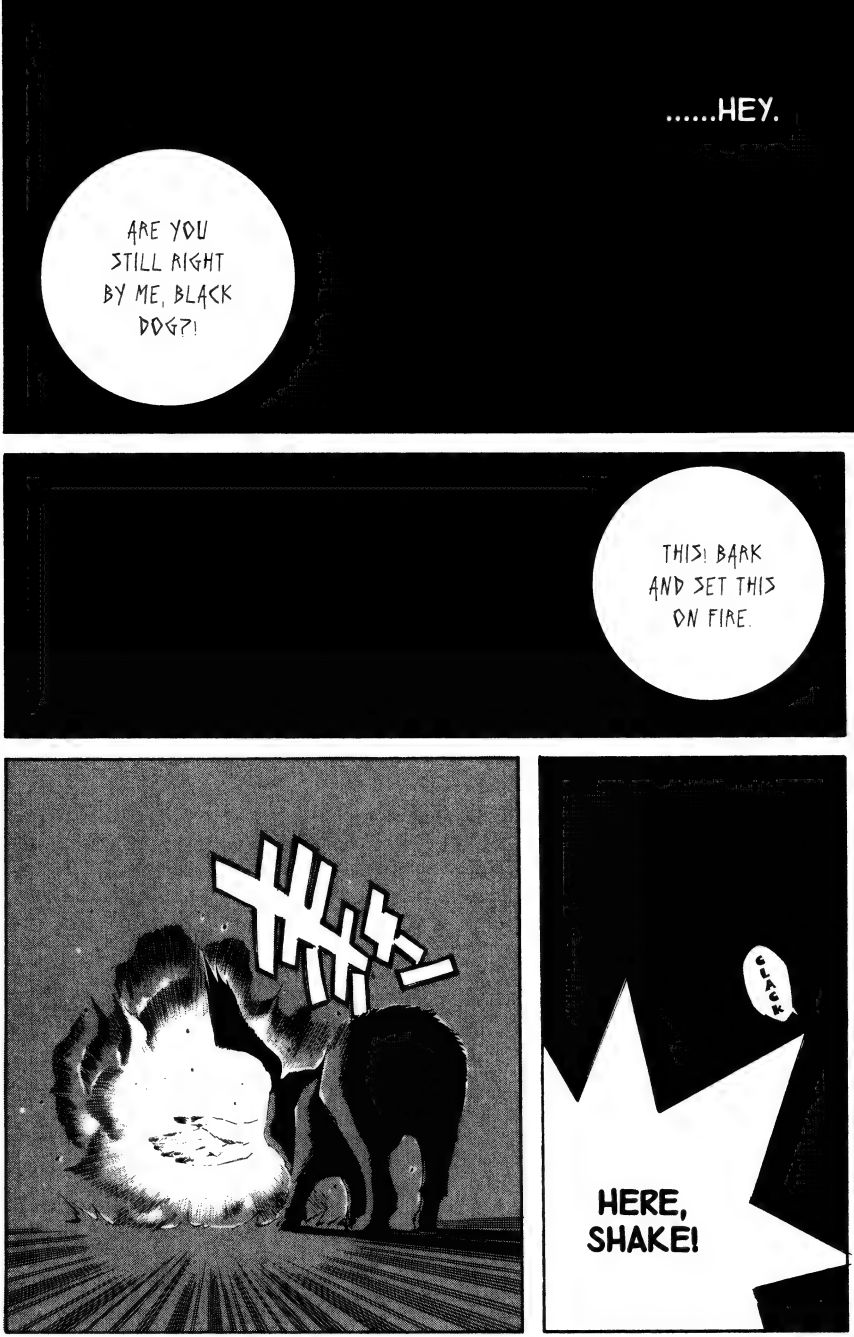
...USING THE MOST TROUBLING KEY IN THE WORLD.
SO THEN, IF THE NEEDLE IS THE KEY...
EXACTLY!
...THE DOOR IS THIS EMBROIDERED TAPESTRY?
SOME BEAUTIFUL, GOLDEN THREAD!!
SO, A NEEDLE NEEDS THREAD, KIR!


JI
I
I
N
G!!
YOU JUST TELL ME WHAT TO SEW, JING.
STILL... THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY.
SFF
AND THESE SMALL HANDS COME IN HANDY FOR THIS.
FIRST, UP THERE ON THE RIGHT...
YES?
I DIDN'T STUDY AT THE CAPITAL OF CLOTHES WITHOUT LEARNING A THING OR TWO.


IT'S ANOTHER CUSTOM, LIKE NOT WEARING CLOTHES, BUT...
YANK
...SPEND THEIR TIME MAKING ALCOHOL.
AND THE MEN, EVEN THOUGH THEY DON'T DRINK...
GIRLS IN MY COUNTRY SEW FROM THE MOMENT WE'RE BORN UNTIL WE DIE.
SO, IN THE CITY'S CATHEDRAL...
HEE HEE HEE... SILLY COUNTRY, ISN'T IT?

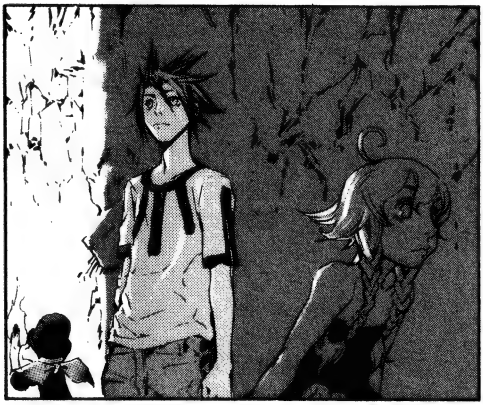
...THERE'S THIS HUGE EMBROIDERED TAPESTRY THAT WAS WORKED ON BY WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, BUT...
WAIT, DO YOU EVEN CARE ABOUT THIS?
YEAH.
I'M VERY INTERESTED!
SO... HOW'S... THAT...?
WWW

BOOM
NNCN
YOU BETTER STAY CLOSE! I'LL NEVER FIND YOU IN HERE IF YOU GET LOST!


.....HEY.
ARE YOU STILL RIGHT BY ME, BLACK DOG?!
THIS! BARK AND SET THIS ON FIRE.
GUAU
HERE, SHAKE!

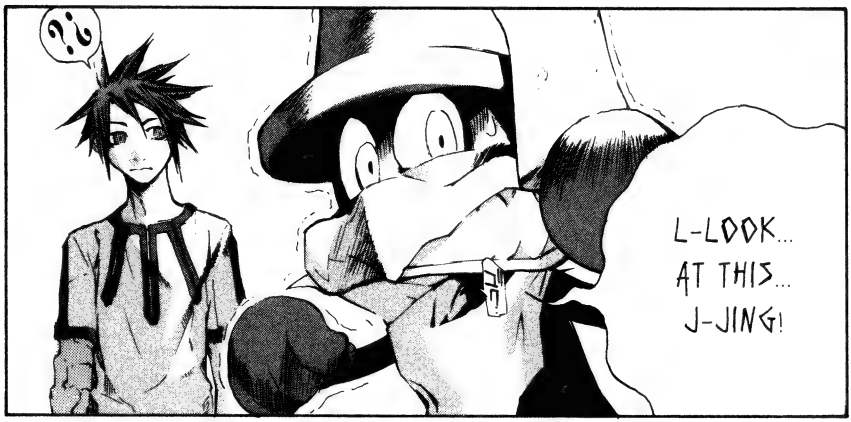
YOU GOTTA HAND IT TO ME...
HOW ABOUT THAT FOR LENDING A HAND?
BOOM

OH!!
FT
SWEEEET!
JUST LIKE HOW ELEPHANTS KNOW WHEN THEY'RE GONNA DIE...
WOW.....
...IT'S LIKE THEY ALL ASSEMBLED HERE.



A MAUSOLEUM OF CLOTHES... YEAH, LOOKS LIKE IT.

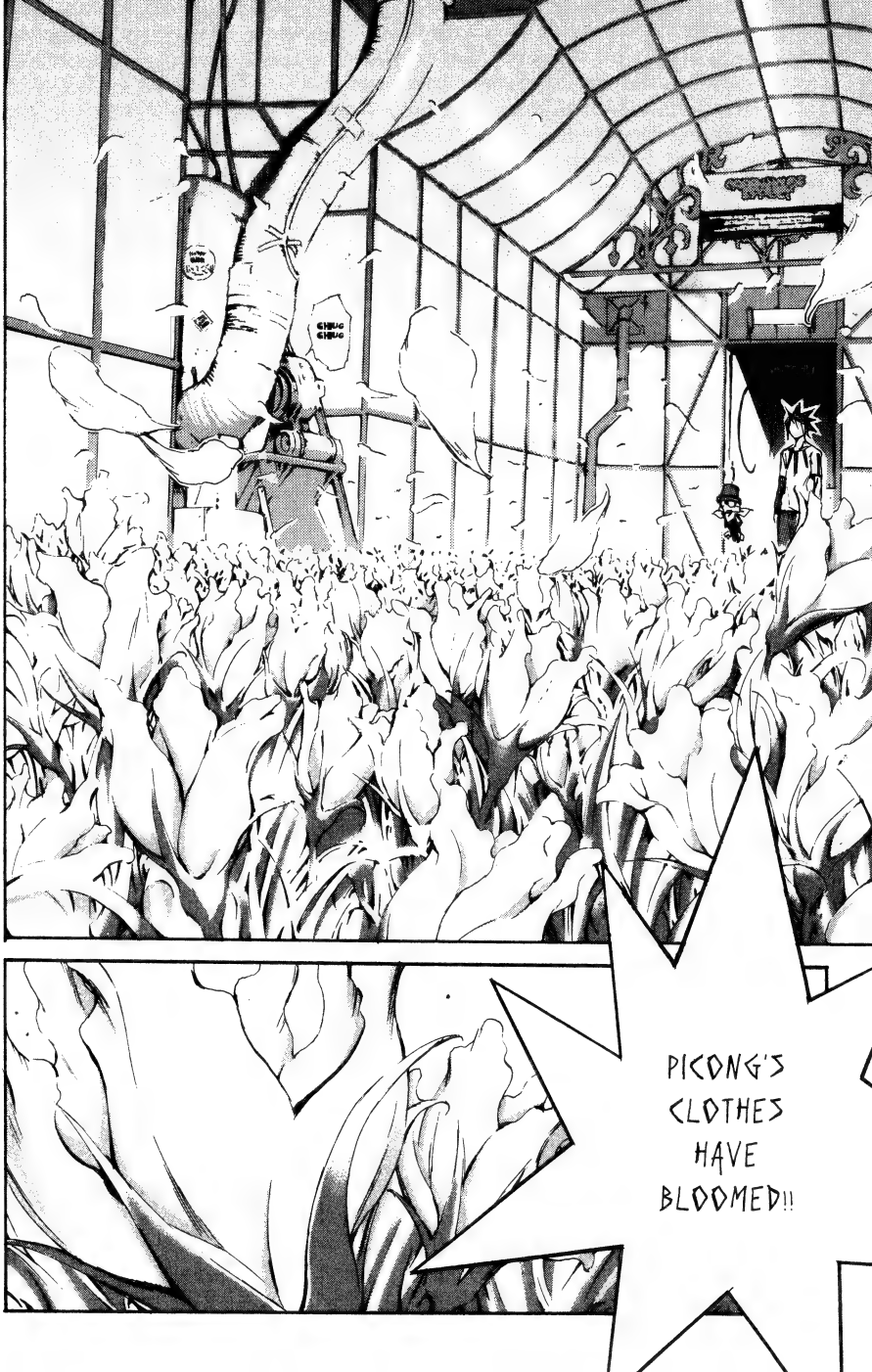
HEY! JING!!!!
?!!


?!
L-LOOK... AT THIS... J-JING!

J-JING...
ISN'T THAT...
YOUR COAT?!
!!
AAAAAAAAAAAAH!!

PICON!!
PICON! WHAT HAPPENED?!
DASH

HEY... WHAT'S GOING ON...?
YEAH...
WHICH ONE IS PICON?!
WHAT A BAD JOKE...
P-PICON IS...UMM...

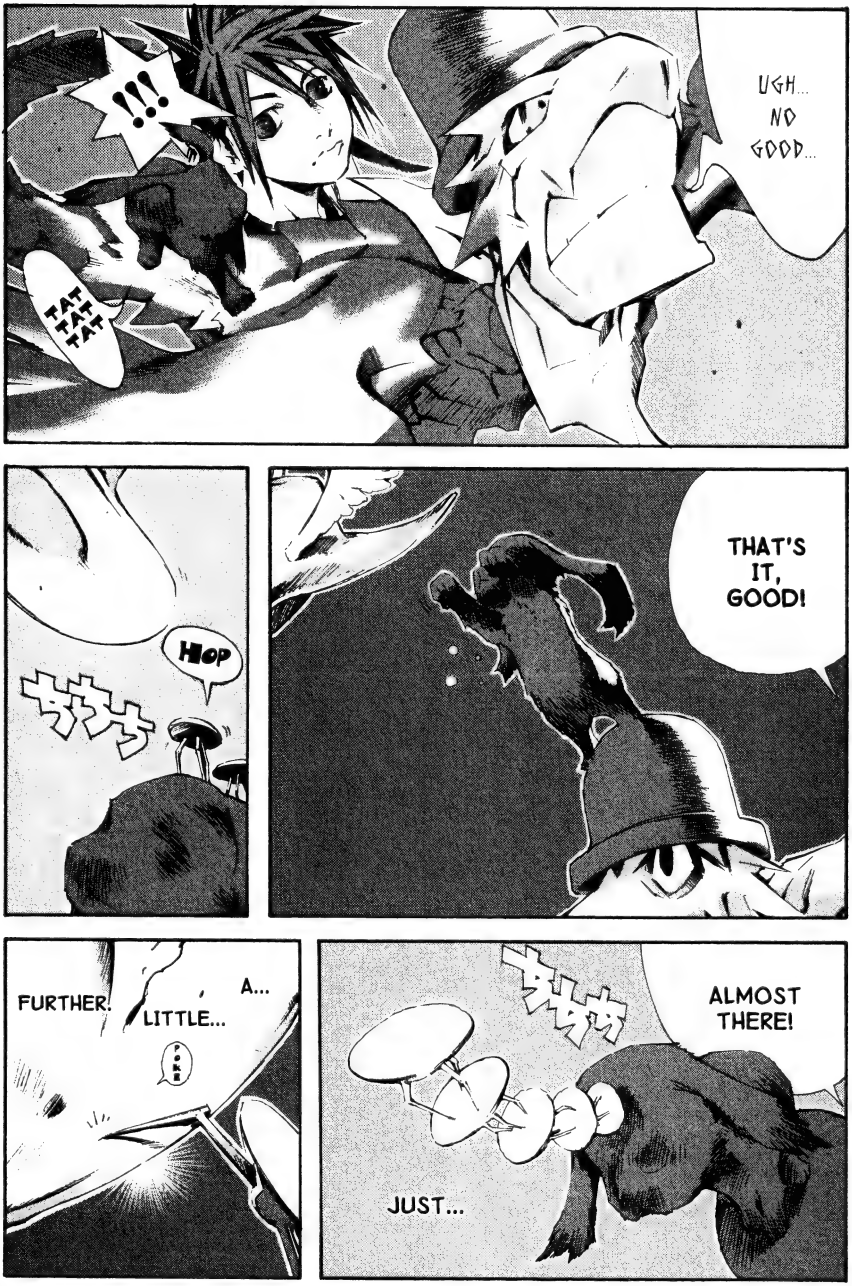

GIGUG
GIGUG
PICONG'S
CLOTHES
HAVE
BLOOMED!!

!!!
!!!!!!!!!!
HEY, JING! OVER THERE!!
YEAH, IT'S PICON!
WOOOM
PICON!
PICON!!

ドドド
ドド
ド
HEY, PICON!!!

WAIT!!
STOP!!
WHAT'S THIS, JING? THIS ISN'T FLYING POSITION-- THIS IS KIR ROYALE TIME!
KIR! I'LL JUMP, YOU FLY!
VMM
KLAK

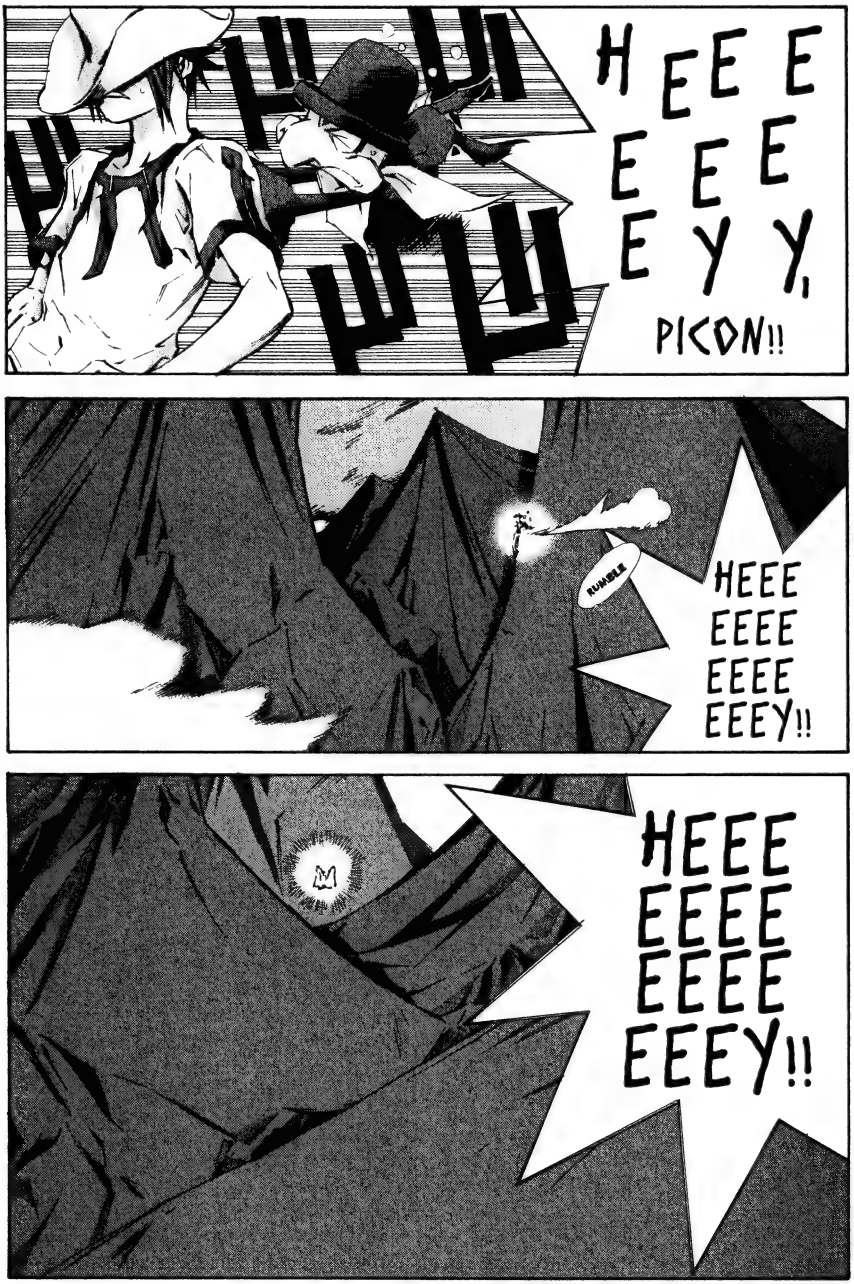
GRRRRRRRRR!!
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
NOOOO!!! THE SCREW IN MY HEAD'S ABOUT TO FLY OUT!


!!!
TAT TAT TAT
UGH... NO GOOD...
HOP
THAT'S IT, GOOD!
FURTHER.
A... LITTLE...
ALMOST THERE!
JUST...

ALL RIGHT, LET'S CATCH UP TO PICON!
GRAB!
WHY ARE YOUR AND PICON'S CLOTHES THERE?
...JING, WHAT'S GOING ON?

I TOLD YOU, THAT'S A MAUSOLEUM...
.....?
THE MASTER WHO RULES THE DARKNESS WE'VE BEEN MOVING THROUGH.
...AND PICON WAS SUMMONED THERE BY THE CURATOR--
HEY, JING! SAY SOMETHING!
?!!

THE GROUND IS COPYING US.
MY BLACK DOG FRIEND..
.....
.....
IT'S COVERED IN VELVET AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE...
JING! WE'LL LOSE PICON!!
LIKE FORCING A KID TO WEAR DRESS CLOTHES!


HEEE
EEEE
EYY,
PICON!!
RUMBLE
HEEE
EEEE
EEEE
EEEY!!
M
HEEE
EEEE
EEEE
EEEY!!

ARE YOU...HERE TO OFFER YOUR CONDOLENCES...?

I OFFER MY EXTREME THANKS FOR YOUR PRESENCE HERE THIS MORNING.
MEANING AN UNKNOWN, INCAPABLE OF BEING UNDERSTOOD TROUBLE APPROACHING... JING!
FLAP
FLAP

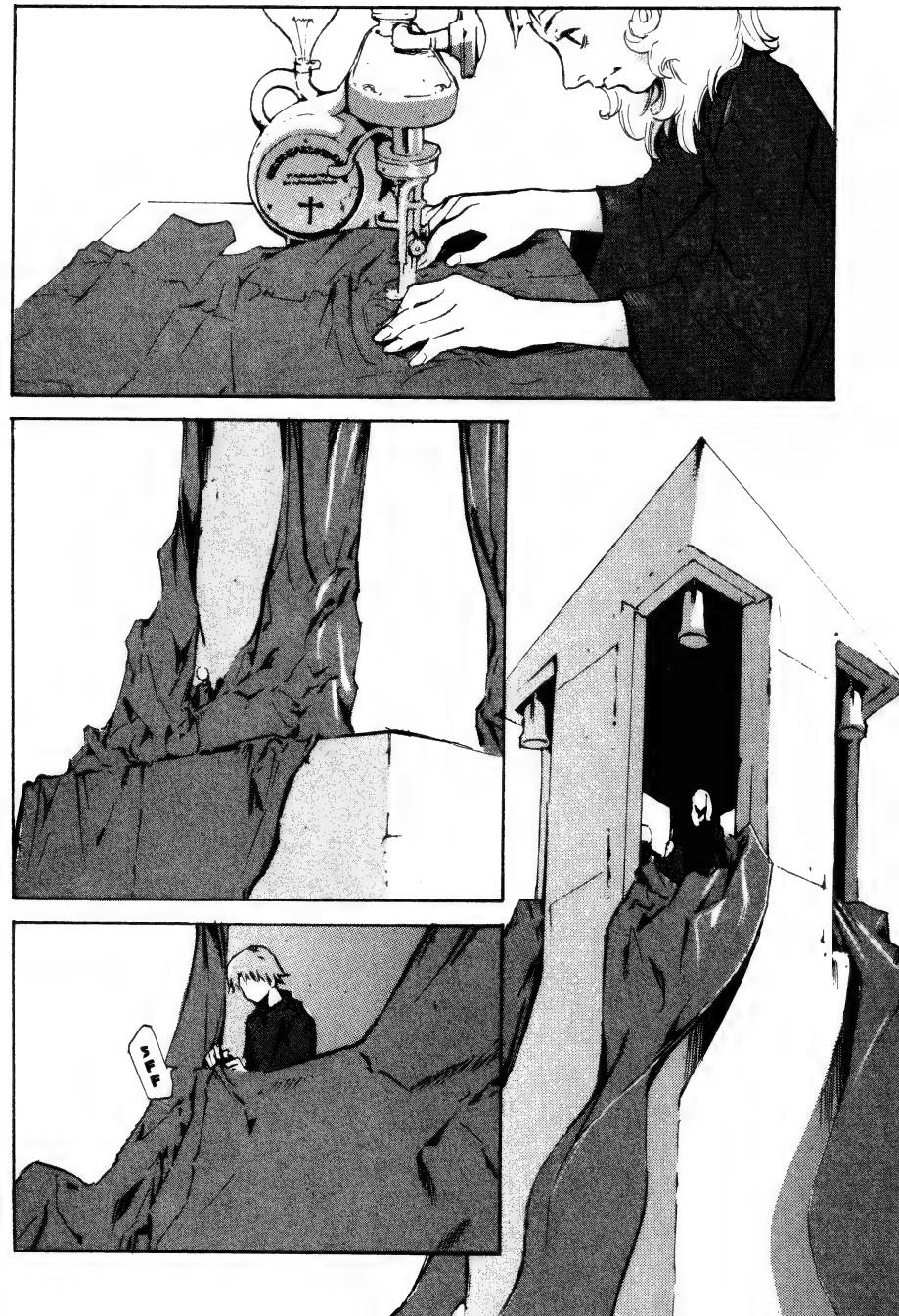
PANT
PANT
PANT
FLAP FLAP
REJOICE. THE NEEDLE GIRL HAS ARRIVED SAFELY.
FLAP FLAP
NEEDLE GIRL? IS THAT PICON?
SEEMS THAT WAY.
WE HAVE BEEN AWAITING THE INDISPENSABLE NEEDLE GIRL WITH FERVENTLY FOLDED ARMS.
FLAP

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OUR PAIN AND GRIEF WHILE WE STAND AT THE DEATHBED OF OUR HAIR-RAISING COUNTY...
THIS IS A MOST NARCISSISTIC CEREMONY...
...YOU WOULD TAKE EVEN THE TEARS OF THE PEOPLE...
...WAS PICON ALSO GUIDED HERE?
WHETHER IT BE FROM THE EASTERN SUN OR WESTERN MOON, WITH THE NEEDLE GIRL SUMMONED...
JUST LIKE HOW THAT HOLY SUIT FLEW OFF...
EJAP
...AND MADE ITS WAY HOME...

THIS WAY... THIS WAY...
IT'S PROBABLY... A GUIDANCE SYSTEM EMBEDDED IN HER FLOWER DRESS.
...WAS SUDDENLY LOST...
HEED MY WARNING-- ALERT YOUR PARTY.
LOOKING ELSEWHERE WILL HELP YOU NOT AT ALL... I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND IT.
AFTER UNPRECEDENTED PROSPERITY...
...THIS COUNTRY PERISHED IN A SINGLE NIGHT.
!!!
THE LEADER HAD ONLY TWO THINGS HE COULD DO--
GRAP

...AS SACRIFICES TO SOOTHE HIS GRIEF.
THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF YOUR LATENESS TO THE WAKE ARE NOT IMPORTANT NOW.
MOURNING, AND GRIEVING.
THAT'S WHY THE NEEDLE GIRLS ARE ASSEMBLED HERE...
AND TO MOURN FOR THE DYING COUNTRY...

...BY
SHROUDING
THE LAND
IN BLACK!!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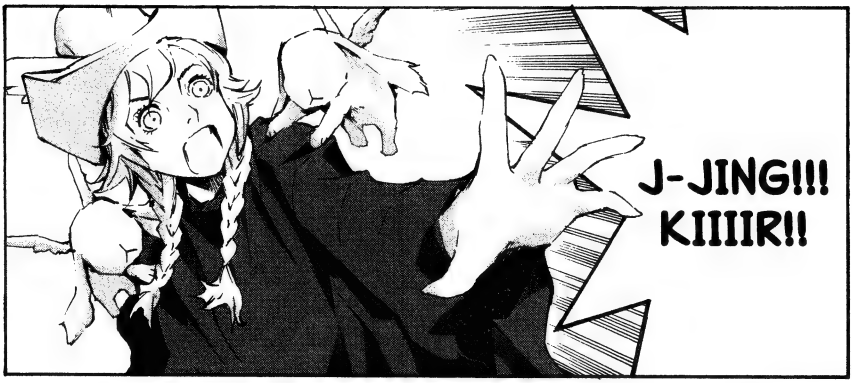
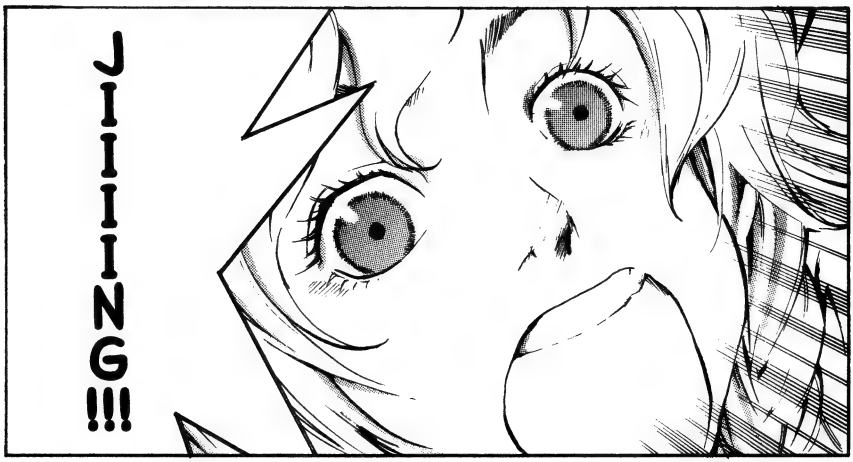
PICON!!

HUH?!
WHA?!
PICON!
HEY!
DON'T!!
WE MAY NOT BE ONE, BUT OUR FATE IS INTERTWINED...
WAIT!
HEY, YOU!!!

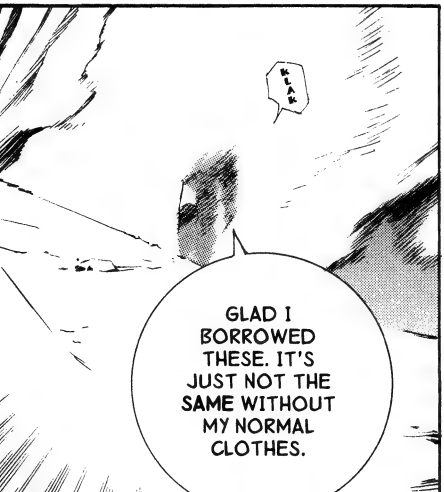
VAKOM!!
SLASH!

THIS IS NOTHING TO FRET OVER...
!!!
GRAB
THIS IS NOTHING TO FRET OVER...
NON-GUESTS MUST BE TOLD TO LEAVE.
!!!
HUH?
HEY!!


J-JING!!!
KIIIIR!!


JIIIIING!!!

PHEW...


KIAH
GLAD I BORROWED THESE. IT'S JUST NOT THE SAME WITHOUT MY NORMAL CLOTHES.

NOW I'M THE KING OF BANDITS!
.....JING!

YOU KEEP SPOUTING NONSENSE WHILE WEARING THOSE OFF-THE-RACK BLACKS...
SPOOOOM!
...AND YOU'LL BECOME ONE OF OUR VICTIMS!
EH!!

KING.....
.....WHAT?
KING...OF BANDITS?!
!!!....
INSIDE THOSE CLOTHES...IS...

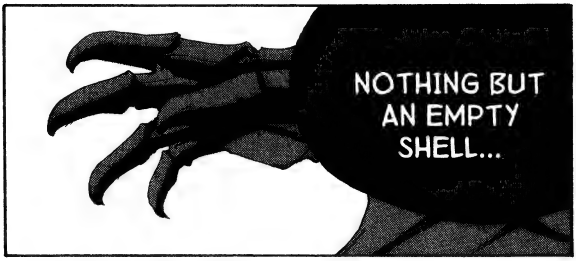
I THOUGHT YOU HAD ALREADY DIED!!
WHAT IS THIS KING OF BANDITS DOING HERE...THEN...?
YOUR CURRENT JOB IS LOOKING THROUGH TRASH?

EITHER WAY, YOU'RE AN EMPTY SUIT!!
BAM
ALMOST EVERY-THING IN THAT CLOSET ...
...IS STUFF THAT LOST ITS MASTER AND WAS THROWN AWAY!
AUFF

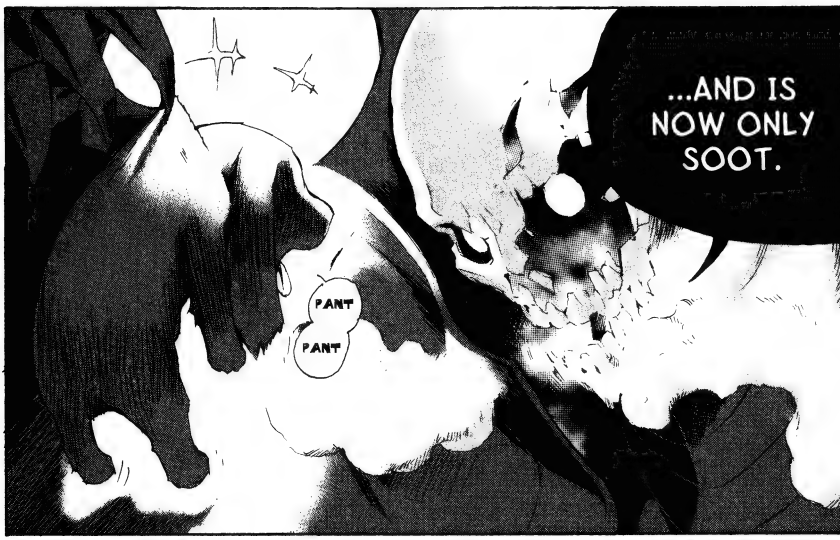
TO HAVE ITS MASTER RETURN TO DIE WITH IT...
JING
...YOUR OUTFIT MUST BE VERY HAPPY!
JING!!!
EVEN IF ITS MASTER IS AS USELESS AS YOU!
SLAM

WHAT IS THERE TO TAKE FROM THIS SORRY COUNTRY?!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN STEALING TO SURVIVE UNTIL NOW, BUT...
WHAT?! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO STEAL?!

BACON
...NOW YOU'RE EMPTY!
?!!


NOTHING BUT AN EMPTY SHELL...

LIKE THIS ONE WHO'S LOST HIS WINGS AND TRUE BODY...


...AND IS NOW ONLY SOOT.
PANT
PANT

GAHH!
GRIP

TAT
KIR! SAY HELLO TO THE LADY!
A KISS TO THE FOREHEAD IS TO BLESS, A KISS TO THE LIPS IS PURE LOVE...
A KISS TO THE HAND IS DESIRE...
?!!
?!!?!!
?!!

EVERYTHING ELSE IS WILD PASSION!!
KIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIR
ROYAAAAAAALE!!!
GHOOOOONN
.....

THERE'S NOTHING HERE TO STEAL...AND IF THERE WERE...
GRAB
WHAT AM I HERE TO STEAL?
...I'D STEAL THE WORLD FROM YOU.
THE WORLD THAT YOU'VE COVERED IN BLACK VELVET!

...JING...
KIR...
JIIING!
KIIIR!!
I'LL MAKE SURE YOU LEAVE THIS PLANET.
OH, PICON! I'LL COME STEAL THE GRAND EMBROIDERED TAPESTRY!
WHEN THE SOUTH WINDS BRING ME ALONG YOUR NEW CLOTHES...

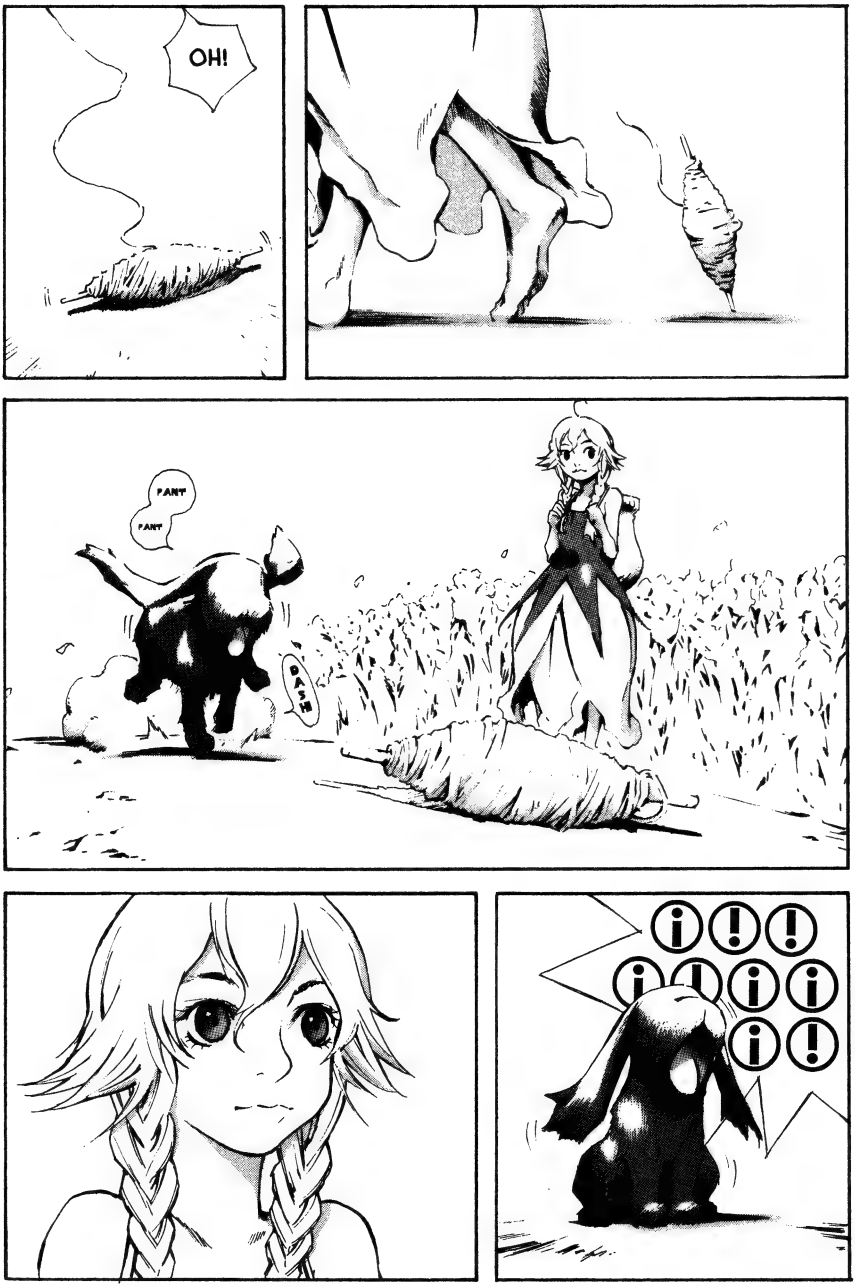
PICON...
PICON...
AND...
... THE ULTIMATE PRAISE...
TO STEAL IS PROBABLY...
PICON... LISTEN, PICON...

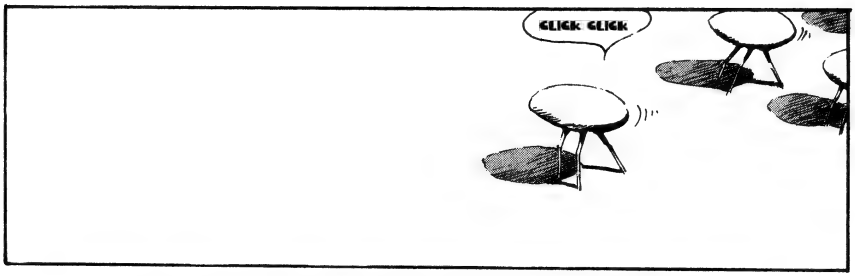
... THE KING OF BANDITS WILL CONTINUE TO STEAL.
AS LONG AS THIS WORLD IS WORTHY OF PRAISE...

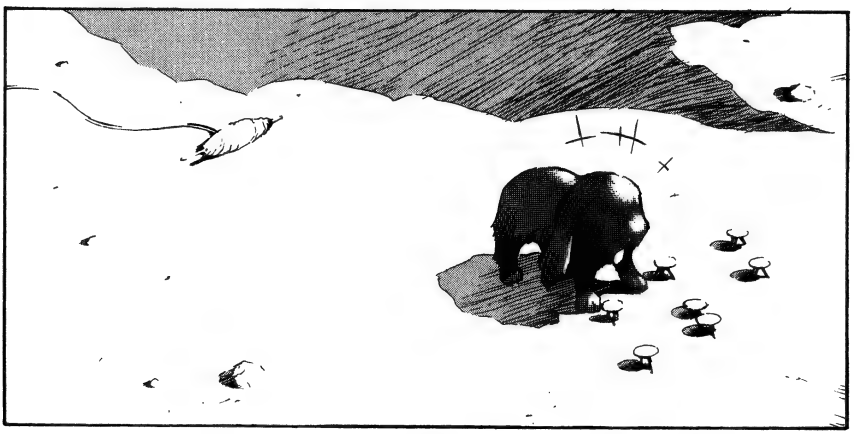
SA

HEY, WHERE DID PICON GO?
YOU KNOW, EVER SINCE SHE GOT BACK FROM THAT LONG TRIP SHE TOOK...
SHE WENT TO GET THREAD... IT'S SURE TAKING HER A LONG TIME.
...SHE SOMETIMES JUST SPACES OUT.

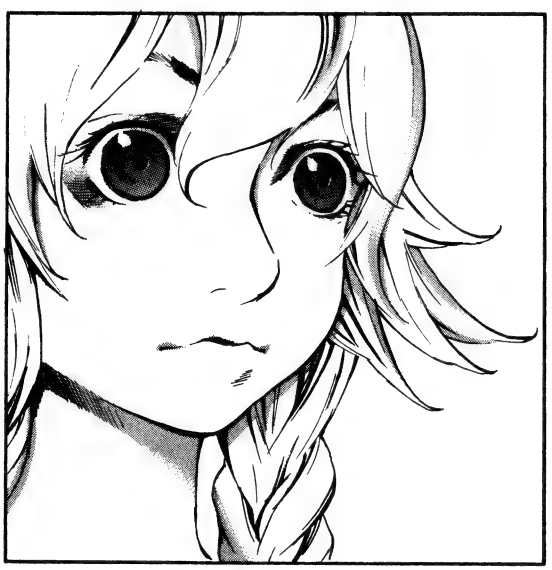
SHE LOOKS LIKE A KID WATCHING TO SEE WHICH FLOWER A BUTTERFLY'S GONNA LAND ON NEXT...

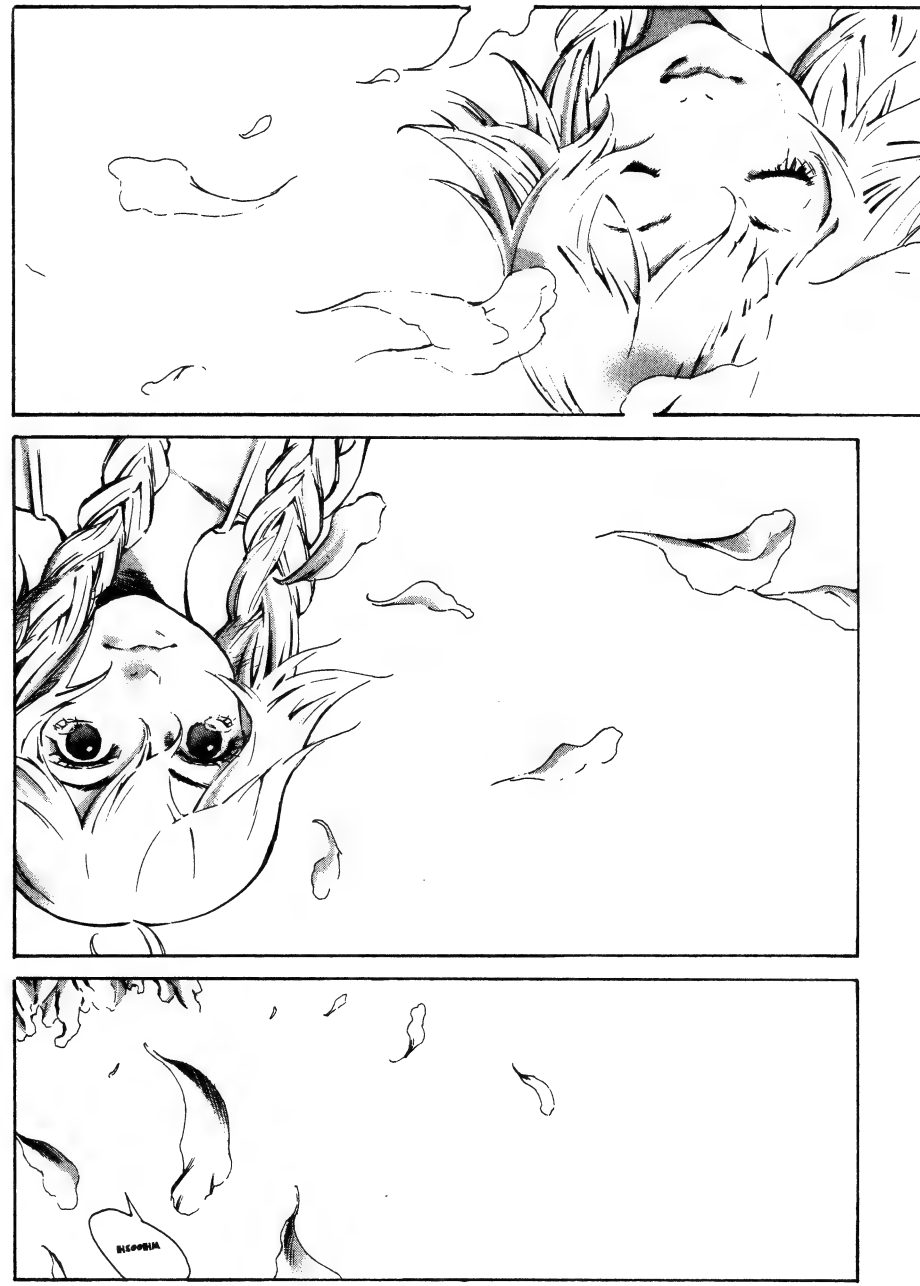

OH!
PANT
PANT
DASH
!!!!!!!!!!

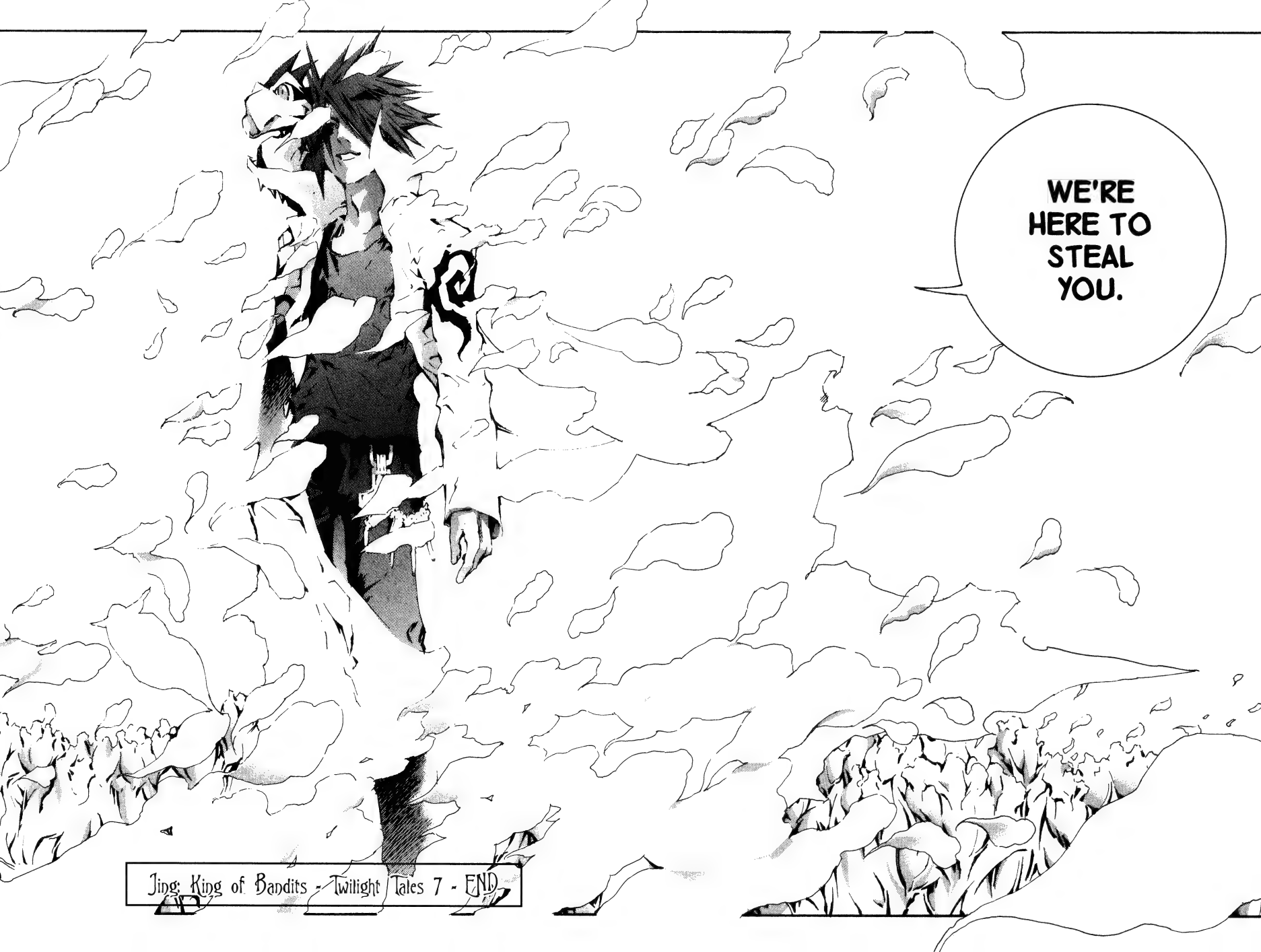




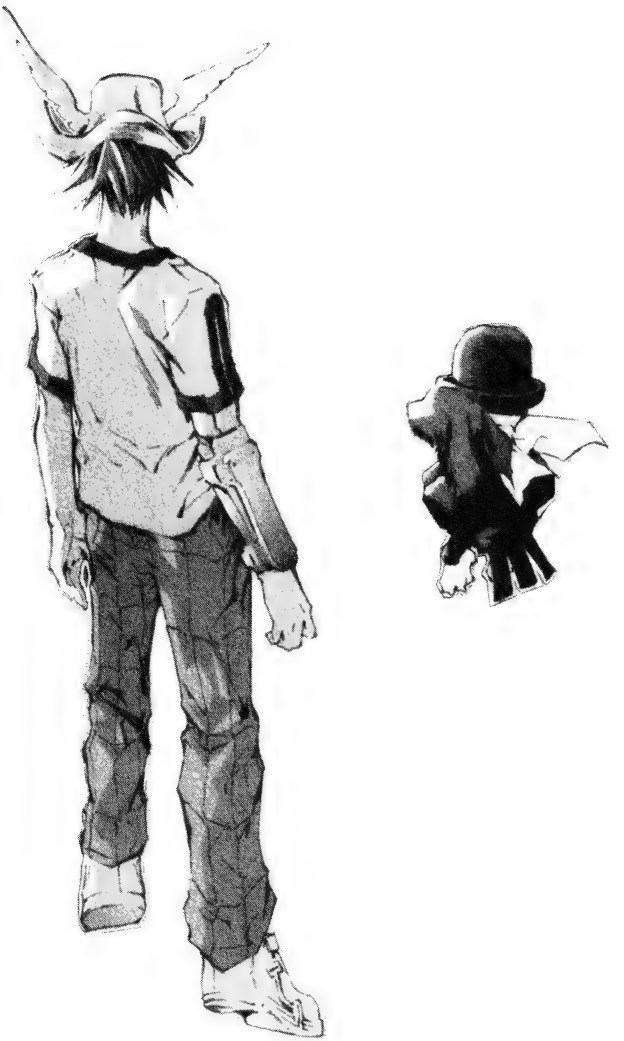
HEY,
PICON.




INSOMNIA



Jing: King of Bandits - Twilight Tales 7 - END



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IS GETTING REVENGE WORTH THE PRICE OF SACRIFICING YOUR OWN HUMANITY?

TOKYOPOP presents Nanae Chrono's original manga series that inspired the *Peace Maker Kurogane* anime

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OT OLDER TEEN AGE 18+ | ACTION

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YURIKO SUDA CONJURES UP A
FUR-RAISING MAGICAL FAMILY COMEDY!

PICK OF THE LITTER

AND YOU THOUGHT YOUR FAMILY REUNIONS WERE CRAZY?!

Riku joins his whacky long-lost family in the mythical land of Yamato and finds he's got a few new siblings! One cat, two rabbits...? Sounds more like a zoo than a home! He may be new in town, but Riku's pledged to lead the family business to the top--and no sneaky competitors, smart-mouthed cats, or mysterious magic is about to stop him!

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TEEN
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COMEDY

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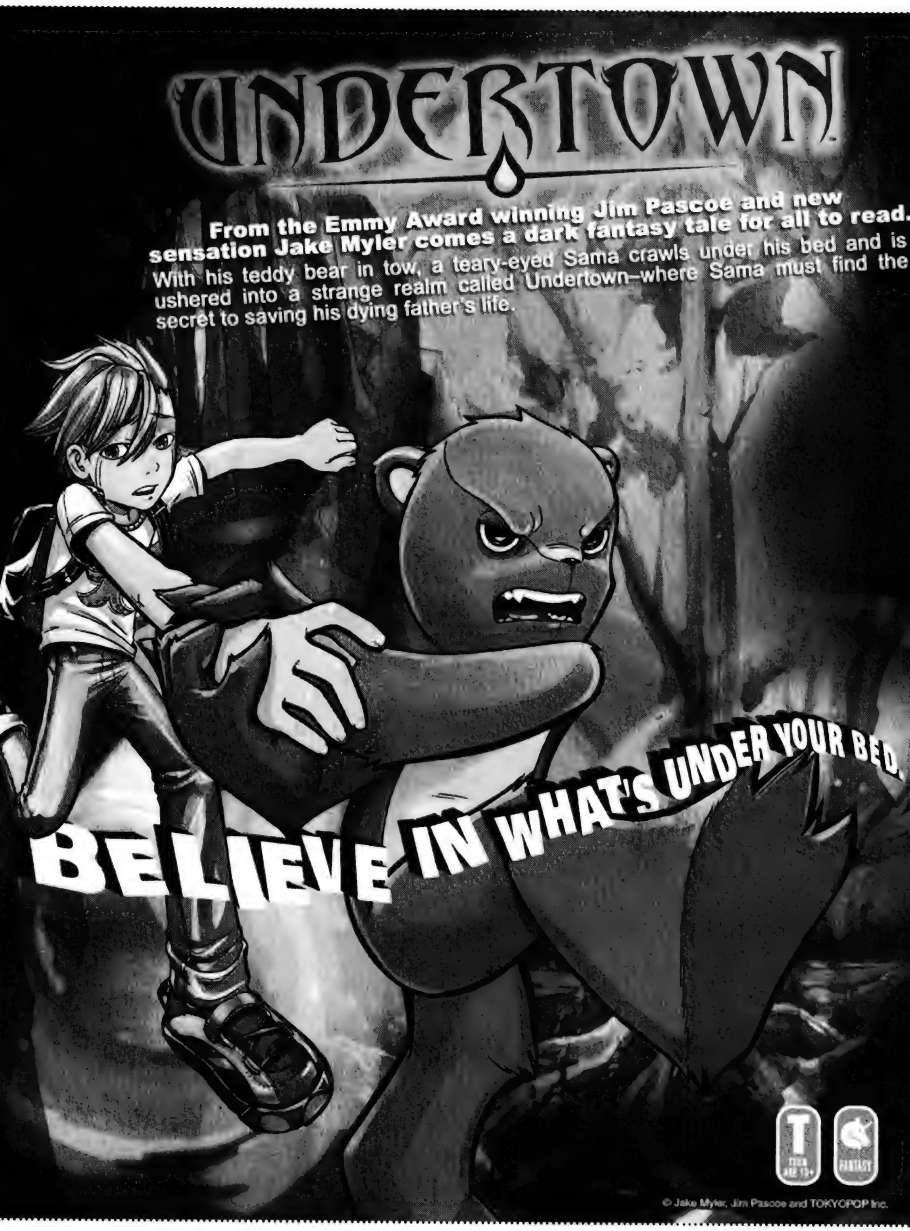
UNDERTOWN
From the Emmy Award winning Jim Pascoe and new sensation Jake Myler comes a dark fantasy tale for all to read.
With his teddy bear in tow, a teary-eyed Sama crawls under his bed and is ushered into a strange realm called Undertown–where Sama must find the secret to saving his dying father's life.
BELIEVE IN WHAT'S UNDER YOUR BED.
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TEEN AGE 13+
FANTASY
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Sonny Strait--television's Dragonball Z actor, writer and director--takes on the world of manga in this magical and mischievous fractured Faerie tale...

We SHADOWS

There is a song. It's a key that unlocks a gateway into a world of Shadows--a dark, yet magical place where Faeries, ogres and hobgoblins co-exist. One such creature is Goat, a homely girl considered insane by the others. Her only friend is a talking mushroom who assures her she is a "fairy princess in training." However, the truth of Goat's destiny is far more interesting... Follow Goat as she unlocks the secret of her origins and her untapped power. A world of magic is just a song away!

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The tag-team of Young-Bin Kim and Juder gives us a lesson on life, love, and the pursuit of...

Stand By Youth

When Hyungmo Yang fails his college entrance exams, he's got no choice but to enroll in an exam school. But when his family's tight on money, his classmates are unruly punks, and his best friend is the king of porn, passing the next exam will be anything but a walk in the park. Enter the beautiful but mysterious girl, Sora, whose voice alone brings hope to Hyungmo's dismal situation. But on the road of life, there are no right answers, so can Hyungmo get the grades...and the girl?

Multitasking will never be the same.

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COMEDY

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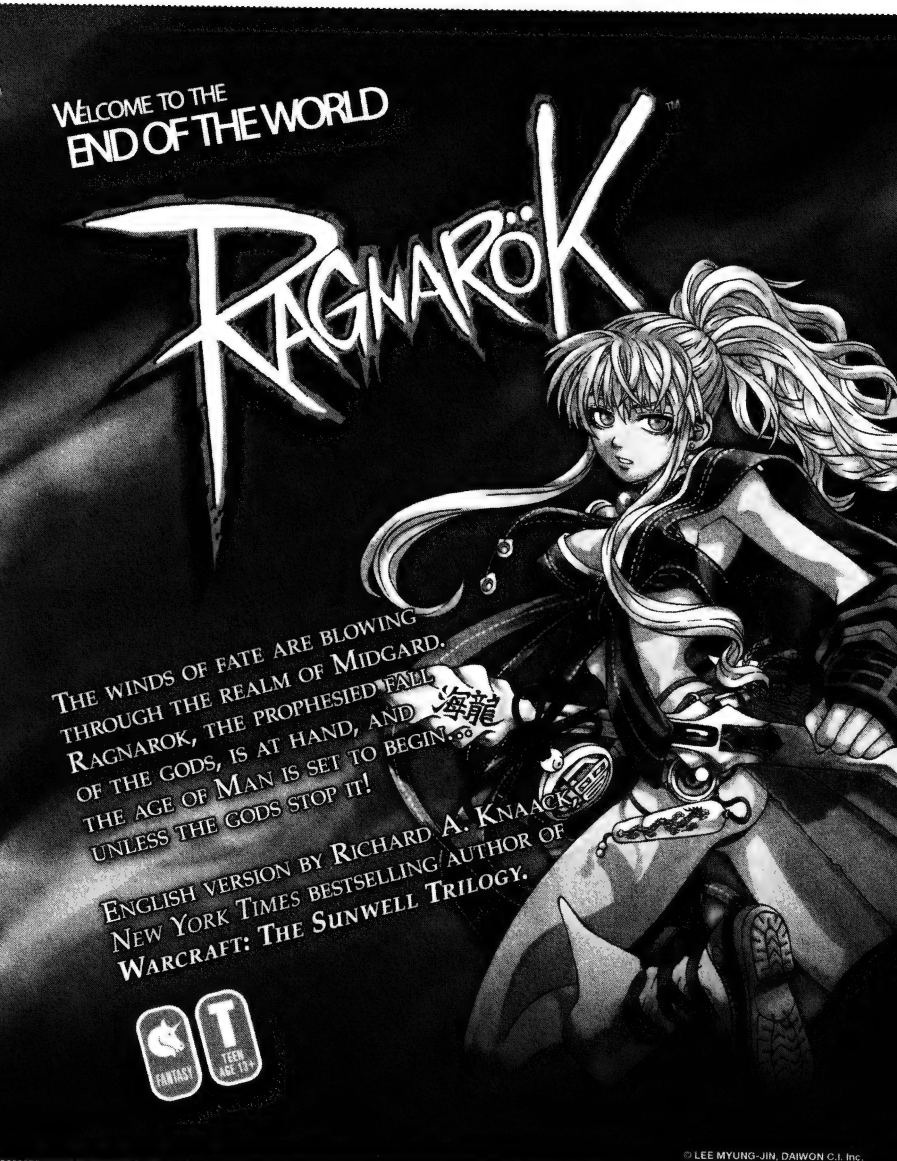
WELCOME TO THE
END OF THE WORLD
RAGNARÖK
THE WINDS OF FATE ARE BLOWING THROUGH THE REALM OF MIDGARD. RAGNAROK, THE PROPHESIED FALL OF THE GODS, IS AT HAND, AND THE AGE OF MAN IS SET TO BEGIN... UNLESS THE GODS STOP IT!
ENGLISH VERSION BY RICHARD A. KNAACK, NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF WARCRAFT: THE SUNWELL TRILOGY.
海龍
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TEEN AGE 13+
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THE TIME IS NOW...
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DRAMA
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From the creator of
INSTANT TEEN!
KEDAMONO
daMono
Konatsu has a crush on the captain of the boys' basketball team...but when she confides in another team member, Haruki, her relationship with him soon grows much closer. There's just one problem: Haruki is a nice, ordinary boy by day, but a pervy girl by night!
COMEDY
OT
OLDER TEEN AGE 16+
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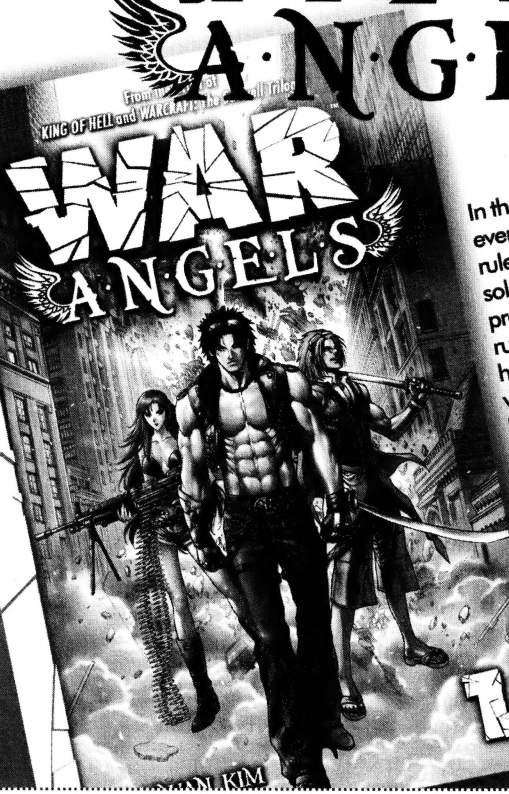
FROM JAE-HWAN KIM, THE ARTIST OF THE BESTSELLING *WARCRAFT* MANGA TRILOGY AND *KING OF HELL*

THE FATE OF THE WORLD IS IN THE ARMS OF THE

WAR ANGELS



In the year 2504, humankind is an ever-shrinking minority under the rule of animal-human hybrid soldiers who were meant to be protectors, but instead became rulers. Doomed to extinction, humanity's one hope is the savior whose birth is foretold by the Post-Testament (a post-apocalyptic bible). This is the story of the War Angels: the powerful people entrusted to protect the mother of the unborn messiah!

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